



Starting September 1 – NARFE Membership Recruiting Incentive! See page 4.

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

2015 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Vacant	
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Director-at-Large, Pat Turner	509.586.6239
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

July – August, Volume 2015, Issue 4

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Our chapter president, Don Binder passed away May 31 after a more than 5-year battle with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Following our chapter’s bylaws, as the 1st vice president, I became the president and was installed at our chapter’s June 3 meeting. I am looking for guidance from everyone to help me maintain the chapter’s high level of excellence achieved under Don’s guidance, both statewide and at NARFE’s national office.



My first priority is to keep our chapter fully functioning. While our membership numbers have increased some, the attendance at our monthly meetings has pretty much remained the same. We need to explore ways to increase that number. To do so, will require a team effort. By that I mean – all of us, not just a few! **An example – our chapter’s nominating committee is looking for members to serve as secretary and 1st vice president. Nominations are in October, elections in November and installation in December. Contact Pat Turner if you are interested or want to learn more.**

Legislative matters are important to all. Members who get news from the NARFE office can see how hard the staff there works to preserve our annuities and benefits. We need to support their efforts. Mary Binder and I will share legislative news with you as we receive it. **And a reminder: August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month! See the “narfe” magazine and website!**

NARFE-PAC is another area we need to support. This was a passion of Don’s. He was serving as our Region IX NARFE-PAC chairman besides being our Washington State federation’s PAC chairman. Both our region and federation are working to continue Don’s work. Our chapter’s PAC chairman, Steve Howes, will be assisting me in continuing to provide you PAC information.

Meanwhile, I hope you are having a wonderful and safe summer. See you in September!



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.

September 2 – Jason Mercier, Washington Policy Center, government reform director, returns to provide an update on the Washington State budget and other issues.



Menu: chicken club sandwich with avocado, bacon, Swiss cheese, light mayo, lettuce, tomato

October 7 – To be determined.

Menu: individual chicken pot pies

JUNE TREASURER’S REPORT*

Balance forward, May 31	\$11,002.43
June income	\$ 476.17
June expenditures	\$ 395.36
Dedicated funds thru June 30	\$ 1,678.00
Balance on hand, June 30	\$ 9,405.24

(*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter website.)

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

With the data breach at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), it is more important than ever to know what is happening. One way to do that is through the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.



At the site's home page, is the latest information about the breach. Once on the home page, click on the link for additional information.

The chapter's website, www.narfe1192.org, has also recently been updated. Remember to check it for everything from chapter newsletters to meeting minutes, programs and menus.

Director at Large – Steve Howes

Our chapter is at a bit of a crossroads. The passing of President Don Binder has left a leadership vacuum that will be difficult to fill not only at our local level, but also at the state's federation level. All of us in Chapter 1192 leadership positions will do our utmost to live up to the high standards Don established for us.



Also at this time, NARFE at the national level is going through a period of transition as it works to move forward with its strategic planning effort. The NARFE Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting and continuing discussions on the *Future of NARFE* report. The Strategic Planning Team will be working on developing a strategic plan for NARFE's future. There could be some significant changes on the horizon; so, stay tuned.

With our chapter now on summer break, I encourage everyone to use this time to put some thought into how you would like our chapter to function and evolve over time. Be prepared to share your ideas. Study the information on the NARFE national website. There is a lot there and it will give you a good idea of what is happening and what our leadership has in mind. **Remember, the best way to deal with change is to participate in the process! 2176**



I hope you have an excellent summer. I'll see you in September.

Director at Large – Pat Turner

It was my privilege to attend our NARFE Districts I and V workshop in May. Nancy Crosby, our District V vice president, did an outstanding job

organizing the workshop, and putting relevant and pertinent information on the agenda to provide grassroots information for all the attendees. Of special interest, was an update on NARFE's strategic planning and how all of us can make a difference in NARFE's future by providing comments and being active in opportunities provided by NARFE. Another workshop benefit – the social aspect of meeting fellow members and officers!



District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

As Pat Turner noted in her article, our district hosted a workshop May 28 in conjunction with District I. There were 37 attendees. Region IX VP Lanny Ross, and WSFC (Washington State Federation of Chapters) President Rich Wilson, Treasurer Arlene Patton and Training Coordinator Autie Bergman gave presentations and reports. Evaluations were very positive. Participants noted that the workshop was very informative and worthwhile.

2016 WSFC Convention – May 15-17

Three Rivers Convention Center and Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick
Mark your calendars!
Volunteers needed!



Photo from SpringHill Suites website

Before the workshop, the District V chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Yakima – met to discuss assignments for the 2016 WSFC convention, which the district is hosting. As convention chair, I gave a presentation outlining convention events and the help needed. Looking ahead, after the September 3 WSFC board meeting, I will visit the 3 district chapters to finalize convention committee assignments.

This fall the WSFC nominating committee will be actively looking for nominees for almost all the WSFC offices. Elections will be at the May convention. Please consider running for an office or volunteering for a committee chair. Your help and participation is needed.

Our Region IX, federation, district and chapter were saddened by the passing of chapter president, Don Binder. He was known as "Mr. NARFE-PAC" for his commitment to his responsibilities as the Region IX PAC chairman. He was an asset to NARFE and will be missed. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Mary, and their families.

Service Office – Lorie Bennett

Congratulations to NARFE Service Officer of the Year, Phyllis Garvas, Walla Walla chapter! And, our service office is open regular hours this summer! **See page 4.**

Legislative – Mary Binder

So, I'm reflecting on what Don would want me to say for this column. Besides NARFE-PAC, he was passionate about current events and staying abreast of legislation, both at the national and state levels. I know he strongly believed that while there may be such as thing as "summer vacation" for some people, that certainly does not apply in the political arena, especially at this particular time with 2016 and elections rapidly approaching. As President Lorie indicated, we'll continue to try to keep you abreast of legislation, especially what is important to current and/or retired federal employees.

As this newsletter "goes to press," OPM – the Office of Personnel Management – data breach continues to dominate the news. I've received my OPM notification letter, so am presuming many other members have, too. If you have questions regarding moving forward, please feel free to contact me or President Lorie. And as our webmaster, Larry Williams, wrote on page 2, continue to check the NARFE website for updates.

Other topics making the news cover the spectrum from hiring reform to the 2016 COLA – will there be one – to the federal budget and spending. MUCH to continue to watch and monitor.

On the state scene, again, as this newsletter goes to press, our legislature just finished its second special session. The focus was passing a budget. Everything from a gas-tax hike to a transportation bill to funding education remain topics of key interest and importance. **8572**



So, whether from here or from afar, Don and I are continuing to watch and monitor legislation. Questions on the above or other issues? Contact me!



NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

Recently, I was watching a political news show. Being discussed – the rapidly growing slate of candidates for president of the United States. One of the commentators suggested that although the presidential election is important and receives the most attention, the races at the congressional and state levels are the ones that can have the greatest impact on the individual American citizen. This is especially true when it comes to legislation affecting the lives of current and retired federal employees. Yes, the president sets the stage for legislation that could impact our earned benefits; but, it is Congress that either passes, modifies or rejects individual laws.

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

NARFE-PAC is a tool that allows our organization to provide financial support to campaigns of members of



Congress, or potential members, who support legislation important to us. The beauty of NARFE-PAC contributions is – they can be used in important races across the nation, not just in your local area. **3778**

The fight to protect our benefits is an ongoing battle, especially during times when budgets are tight. Even though our chapter is on "summer break," your support to NARFE-PAC remains crucial to achieving NARFE's legislative goals. So, please sign up for the sustainer program or send in a one-time or monthly donation, if you can. Need more details? See the latest *narfe* magazine.

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

At the May district workshop, Bob Elmore (below, right), WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, presented a certificate to me for our chapter. It is a "Citation for Distinguished Service" certificate recognizing chapter members' outstanding contributions to the Alzheimer's Research Fund for the funding year ending April. Members donated \$2,540. Besides Bob's signature, NARFE National Alzheimer's Chairman Merv Stuckey and NARFE President Richard Thissen signed the certificate.



Remember, contributions are tax deductible, if you itemize deductions. Thanks again for your continued support.

Coming in August: the 2016 NARFE Calendars!

Also ... a New Contest!



2017 calendar photo contest starts August 1. Details at "Special Programs," www.narfe.org.



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Don Binder NARFE Silver Circle Memorial Donation

Region IX VP Lanny Ross is leading the effort for those wanting to make a donation to NARFE's Silver Circle and its Hall of Fame Award in memory of Don Binder, former chapter president. For details call Chapter President Lorie Bennett, 509.531.2745.

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Thank you and reminders! Thank you to all members who renew their memberships each year! Regarding this, as our older members age, downsize and move, other family members may be receiving their mail but not understanding how helpful NARFE can be. This lack of awareness has resulted in some members being dropped for not paying dues. Please contact me or a chapter officer if you need help.

Mark your Calendars!

September 1 thru December 31

NARFE awards recruiters \$10 for each new member & their names are entered into a grand prize drawing once for each new member.

October 21

Healthcare providers representatives will be in our area for open season.

Details at fall meetings, the next newsletter.

Reinstatements and Transfers In: Welcome back Judy Hames and Anne Taber; welcome Yvonne Keel, Alameda, Calif., Chapter 1272

New retirees! Consider dues withholding for your membership renewals. Just complete the form but **SEND NO MONEY**. In 6-9 weeks, you'll receive a notice from OPM with the amount deducted from your annuity, \$3.67, and your new monthly annuity figure. **PLUS**, you'll receive a one-time \$15 combined rebate from our state federation and chapter. Questions? Call me, 509.375.0739, or use email, caylorx2@aol.com.



Hidden numbers: May/June numbers belonged to: Gerald Bell; Ami Sidpara; Joseph Sutey. **No calls; no winners! Let's change this!** Find 3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of a member's NARFE number.**

Contact me, 509.375.0739, and win \$5.



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Heads up! Prior to the September chapter meeting, our callers will make their **annual calls to all members to verify information.** Please help our callers by returning their calls. This is an important annual endeavor to help ensure we have correct membership information. Thank you. Should you need, my contact information is:

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

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences to the families of former members: Grace St. John; Irene Ono

A personal note: To all who have sent cards, thoughts and prayers, and/or who have offered support in numerous ways since Don's death, a very sincere thank you. I have been touched and feel incredibly blessed, and I know Don is truly honored and humbled. I also know he is continuing to help and support us as we all work to sustain NARFE and to move forward.



Reminder: Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.

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

