



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](http://www.narfe.org) Washington Federation: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org) Tri-Cities: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)

**Important! Remember to VOTE – NARFE elections and state primary. See pages 1, 2 and 4.**

### 2020 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

<b>President, Pat Turner</b>	509.539.5659
<b>Vice President, Nancy Crosby</b>	509.735.3288
<b>Secretary, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Treasurer, Liz Bowers</b>	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer's, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall</b>	509.586.8232
<b>Legislative, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Membership, Johanna Caylor</b>	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC, John Wetterling</b>	509.545.8016
<b>Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer, Vacant*</b>	
<b>Sunshine, Faye Vlieger</b>	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554

\*For assistance, call Nancy Crosby or Mary Alice Binder.  
See their numbers, above.

### CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

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

11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Lunch: \$20; reservations REQUIRED

**(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)**

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

**Note! The April and May meeting programs have been rescheduled. See below. If there are further updates, members will be notified in the next chapter newsletter, via email and/or the chapter's callers. Also, check for updates on the chapter's website: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).**

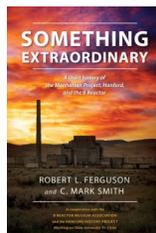
**September 2** – Update on the Arts Center Task Force

**Menu:** Beef stroganoff w/egg noodles; seasonal veggies



**October 7** – Local author, C. Mark Smith, returns to discuss his latest book, *Something Extraordinary* – a behind-the-scenes narrative of the Manhattan Project

**Menu:** Margarita chicken – grilled chicken breast w/fresh mozzarella, roasted tomato, fresh basil, balsamic demi glaze; roasted vegetable Isareli couscous; seasonal veggies



### **July – August, Volume 2020, Issue 4**

#### **Chapter President – Pat Turner**

Welcome to a summer of changes. We have been on some bumpy roads these past few months; so, I am hoping all our members and their families are doing OK. On behalf of your chapter's officers and board members, I can say we are very much looking forward to again being able to have our monthly meetings and seeing you!



Speaking of our officers and board members, in June we held our first-ever "virtual" meeting. Despite a few initial logistical hiccups, it went remarkably well for our first try. Looking ahead we will most likely continue to "virtually" meet during the summer.

I would like to draw your attention to **2 special articles in this newsletter!** On page 3, you'll read about the special recognition Larry Williams, our chapter Alzheimer's chairman, received from the Washington State Federation; and, on page 4, Johanna Caylor, our membership chairman, recognizes Ray White – a NARFE "distinguished" member and the chapter's only remaining "honorary" member – who will have his 100th birthday July 30! Congratulations to Larry and Ray!

Yes, at this time, we are planning to resume our chapter meetings September 2 at the Red Lion. Note updated information, this page, including that any further updates will be in our September/October chapter newsletter, sent via email and/or through the chapter's callers, and posted on our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).

The election for NARFE officers, including for our Region IX vice president, is scheduled for August. I cannot stress enough the importance of voting in this election. NARFE leadership is important to the organization's success. Besides election information in the August *narfe* magazine, see page 2, this newsletter.

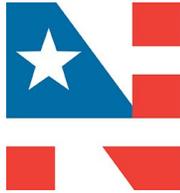


During these times of limited face-to-face contacts, I welcome you to contact me, or any board member, if you need assistance, have questions, know another member and or a member's family who needs help. We're in this together. Stay healthy, stay safe and I hope to see you at our chapter meeting, September 2. **2135**

## VP – Nancy Crosby

I sincerely hope you are all well and staying safe. I have been self-quarantined, am doing OK, but do miss social interactions and seeing many of you!

NARFE's headquarters in Virginia was closed for several weeks with most staff working remotely. A phased re-opening began June 22; however, the building was closed again July 3 after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. Another phased re-opening is scheduled to start July 17. Meanwhile, you can still call/leave a message and/or email NARFE should you have questions.



For example, you can email the NARFE Federal Benefits office. Log onto the NARFE website and click on "Departments" on the homepage, then "Federal Benefits" and "Contact Us." By the way, on that page, you'll find a wealth of information on everything from COLAs to death notifications, insurance, Medicare, retirement planning, Social Security, TSP and Veterans Benefits. You can also call 800.456.8410; select option "2."

Another option if you have retirement and/or benefits questions – feel free to contact me as your "acting chapter service officer." Our service office in the Federal Building, Richland, remains closed but I can meet with you elsewhere or talk with you via phone.

Next, a reminder about the NARFE webinars, which are free to NARFE members! If you cannot attend a "live" webinar, all past webinars are archived and can

## NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

be viewed on the NARFE website under the Federal Benefits Institute. The next webinar, "It's NOT Magic: Target YOUR Best Retirement Date," is July 16.

Lastly, as I wrote in the May/June chapter newsletter, I would be "retiring" as your Washington State Federation (WSF) president after a 4-year term. It was a pleasure to serve as a representative to the federation from our chapter. Now, read newly elected WSF President Steve Roy's first message, below.

## WSF President – Steve Roy

My name is Steven Roy. I was installed as your WSF president, May 7, during the "virtual" WSF board meeting. In 2013 I retired from the EPA, Region 10, Seattle. I am a member of Everett Chapter 193.



I would like to invite you to our next WSF Executive Board Meeting, Thursday, July 9. It will be another "virtual" GoToMeeting and last about 2 hours starting at 9 a.m. The link for accessing the meeting is on the

WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). Besides officer and chairman reports, there will be an update on the WSF redistricting project and an "appearance" from the 2 candidates running for the Region IX VP position – Rich Wilson, the incumbent, and Linda Silverio, the Oregon federation president. **[Editor's note: See more candidate information below.]**



As president I have 4 main goals:

- ◆ Strengthen and support our WSF and chapters grassroots legislative outreach activities with our state's congressional delegation.
- ◆ Strengthen our WSF and chapters by increasing our NARFE membership, including filling our WSF vacant membership chairman position. Are you interested?
- ◆ Support our 16 WSF chapters with "scholarships" to attend training, advocacy support at the state and federal levels, membership recruitment, administrative requirements, assistance with interfacing with NARFE headquarters and service officer duties.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to engage our national-only members and welcome them to participate in NARFE national and WSF activities.

Best wishes, and please stay healthy and safe. **5746**

## WSF District V VP – Mary Binder

Regarding the upcoming NARFE elections, President Pat wrote in her article, page 1, "I cannot stress enough the importance of voting in this election." I second this statement! Toward the end of July, you'll receive your August *narfe* magazine. It will have instructions for both online voting and mail-in ballots. Please take the few minutes needed to vote, and please feel free to contact me if you have questions and/or need other assistance. Detailed information is also in the June/July *narfe* and on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). To note – typically, a little over 10 percent of our chapter members vote in a NARFE election. While this is higher than the NARFE average, and several of our WSF chapters, a challenge to all – let's see if we can reach at least 20 percent!

Included in this election are 2 candidates running for Region IX VP, the incumbent, VP Rich Wilson, (*right*) and Linda Silverio, the current Oregon federation president. Both have statements in the March *narfe*, pages 49/50. Linda also submitted the information (*right*) for this newsletter. (Note: Region IX is made up of 5 states – Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington.)



**NARFE**  
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

Vote for

**LINDA L. SILVERIO**  
Candidate for  
NARFE REGION IX  
VICE PRESIDENT

**S**incere

**I**ntelligent

**L**oyal

**V**aluable Computer Skills

**E**nthusiastic

**R**esponsible

**I**nformation Sharer

**O**rganizational Skills

## Treasurer – Liz Bowers

I can again report “good news.” We are within budget for the year, bills are paid and, recently, we received a “settlement” from NARFE of almost \$100. This covered June to November 2019 during which “NARFE paid federations and chapters their estimated monthly [dues] payments” as it did not have up-to-date member information while implementing its new Association Management System (AMS). So, between the saving/checking accounts, the chapter has about \$17,500.



## Legislative – Mary Binder

Following are a few updates and/or reminders I want to share with you:

- ◆ 2020 Census! I hope all members have completed the short but incredibly important census. The financial impacts to our community are highlighted in both the March/April and May/June chapter newsletters. From August 11 to October 31, census offices across the country will be following up with households that have not responded.
- ◆ For members in the Thrift Savings Plan, there have been several recent announcements, including: more opportunities for online transactions; the availability of hardship loans for qualifying members as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act; and, as of July 1, 6 new funds and a retired one, “giving participants a total of 15 options” for investing their retirement savings.”
- ◆ COLA for 2021, as of June information, may be zero, according to an article by Ralph Smith in *FedSmith*. So, while grocery prices have gone up, fuel prices have dropped. Yes, how COLAs are calculated is complicated, and something NARFE follows closely. Stay tuned! Watch for updates.
- ◆ COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions. “NARFE is serving as the go-to resource for information about federal benefits informing both federal retirees and employees of resources, policies, and laws that will benefit or affect them during the coronavirus pandemic.” NARFE’s advocacy department has extensive information on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- ◆ CSRS was 100 years old in June. While it has changed over the century, including the creation of the FERS program in the 1980s, “the fact that they even exist” when many employers have replaced them, if at all, is worth noting! Thanks to all involved 100 years ago!



## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

We have a lot of issues before Congress, and the elections, too. NARFE-PAC needs our support. See page 13,

## 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., Suites 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

June/July *narfe* magazine for contribution information, including becoming a sustainer. Thank you for the support!

The 6th quarter NARFE-PAC reports for the 2019/2020, 2-year congressional cycle should be on the NARFE website by mid July. Recently, however, I was notified that Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) received an additional \$1,500 from NARFE-PAC for a total of \$3,500 during this 2-year cycle.

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month, the month NARFE will be asking members to contact their elected representatives. Watch for more information in the August *narfe* magazine. **0631**

## Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams Sunday, October 11, the Kennewick Walk to End



**Alzheimer’s!** More details at the September and October chapter meetings, in the next chapter newsletter and on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).

## WSF Alzheimer’s Chairman – Lorie Bennett

Congratulations, Larry Williams, one of 3 WSF members receiving special NARFE recognition for support to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. He will be receiving a certificate recognizing his work as the Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Alzheimer’s chairman since 2017 and noting chapter contributions/money raised each year for the Research Fund has increased, including \$3,185 for the year that ended April 30. Larry also provides Alzheimer’s updates at chapter meetings and in the bi-monthly newsletter; coordinates the chapter’s annual “white elephant” auction and has staffed the coat check at the Tri-Cities Wine Festival, with proceeds from both going to the Research Fund; and, for 2 years, has put together a chapter team for the local Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Well done and thank you, Larry!

**Return Service Requested**

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

  
**NARFE Elections! See August narfe.**  
**Washington State Primaries, August 4!**

**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

No new chapter members but other information to share below, including a 100th birthday!

**Reinstated:** Margaret Corbin

**Hidden Numbers:** May/June newsletter numbers belonged to Sandra Chandler, Sen Moy and Ray White. Ray found his, called me and donated his \$5 to the Alzheimer’s Research Fund. Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits, your NARFE membership number.** Call or email me, (509.375.0739; [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com)), and you, too, can win \$5!



**CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS !**

Reminder – prior to our September meeting, our callers will be making their annual calls to all local members to confirm contact information, call or do-not-call status, etc. PLEASE return calls if a caller leaves a message. Having up-to-date information will help the chapter board in the coming meeting year.

**Contact: Darleen Wall**  
**Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: [jdwall2@frontier.com](mailto:jdwall2@frontier.com)**



**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**  
Since the May/June newsletter:

**Condolences to chapter member:**  
Lorie Bennett on the passing of her brother

**Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, [einvlieger@aol.com](mailto:einvlieger@aol.com).**



**Webmaster – Larry Williams**  
Reminder! Besides the NARFE website, there are 2 “local” sites with a wealth of information. The chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org) and the WSF site, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). Our chapter site has information on meeting programs, menus and minutes, along with past newsletters and special announcements. The WSF site has everything from statewide information, including from other chapters, historical/reference material, and links to meetings.



**Public Relations – Mary Binder**  
The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce now has FREE-to-members “virtual” lunch meetings until “in person” can resume. Upcoming: July 22 (State of the Cities, mayors’ annual update); August 26 (Congressman Dan Newhouse, legislative update). Please contact me if you want more information! Yes, FREE! Yes, you’re at home!

 **Ray White – Happy 100th Birthday!** 

On July 30, chapter member Ray White turns 100! An Oklahoma native, Ray served a tour of duty in the Army before meeting his wife, Wyoma, marrying in Aberdeen, Wash., and starting a 30-year IRS career. He and Wyoma moved to the Tri-Cities around 1943 where they raised their 2 sons and a daughter. After Ray retired from the IRS in 1973, he and Wyoma had an income tax business in their Pasco home. They were married 59 years.

Ray joined NARFE Chapter 1192 in April 1988. He enjoys the newsletter and searches for his “Hidden Number” in each edition. He recently found his number! (*See above*)

Ray is living comfortably with his daughter, Debbie, and family, in Pasco. He is ambulatory – no wheelchair or walker – but is dealing with diminished hearing and sight issues. His favorite restaurant is the Texas Roadhouse, and he still loves his sweets, especially chocolate and strawberry flavors!

Ray requests no fanfare for his birthday; but, Ray, from your NARFE Chapter 1192 family, we want to say, **“Happy 100th and thank you for your service!”**

