



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)

**Celebrating the Chapter's 50th Anniversary – 1971 to 2021!**

### 2021 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August  
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

**Chapter Meetings Returning to In-Person!**  
Beginning with the September meeting, chapter meetings will again be in person, and at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Kennewick.



(Photo, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick website)

**The contract with the hotel is in place for chapter meetings through December. Chapter members will continue to receive updates in future newsletters, in email notices for those with email addresses on file, from the chapter's callers and on the chapter's website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).**

**September 1** – Join in celebrating the chapter's 50th anniversary! Yes, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is 50 years old this year. So, a dual celebration – the chapter's first in-person meeting since the COVID shutdown AND a 50-year chapter celebration. More details in the September/August newsletter.



**Menu: beef stroganoff w/egg noodles, salad, veggies**

### **July – August, Volume 2021, Issue 4**

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

GOOD NEWS! We are scheduled to resume our in-person luncheon meetings September 1 at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick, Columbia Center. Besides celebrating having an in-person gathering, we will also celebrate the chapter's 50th anniversary. A planning committee is working this summer on the celebration. I hope MANY chapter members can join us!



To repeat, YES, I hope MANY chapter members can join us in September. It is so important for us as a chapter and organization to stay connected, and to keep informed of the many benefits NARFE offers. During the COVID shutdown, our virtual meetings certainly helped to keep us connected but now we want to transition back to our in-person meetings. **[Note! If you need transportation to the meeting, please contact Ellen LeVee, our new service officer, or Johanna Caylor, our membership chairman. They will assist in getting transportation for you to and from the meeting.]**

Your chapter board needs your help in reaching out to members, and with recruiting new members. Johanna has membership material and Mary Binder has extra NARFE magazines, should you need. Please contact them. Also, if you know a member needing a little "sunshine" or special recognition, contact Faye Vlieger, our "sunshine" coordinator, or one of the board members. Again, I want to emphasize how important it is to reach out to stay connected as chapter members. Please help us do so.

Looking further ahead, the election for chapter officers will be this fall. Our elected positions are: president; vice president; secretary; and treasurer. I have a nominating committee in place that will submit a slate of proposed officers for 2022-2024. If you are interested in serving, know someone who might be interested, and/or want more information about the positions, please call Mary Binder, the committee chairman, or email her at [mary\\_binder@msn.com](mailto:mary_binder@msn.com).

Enjoy summer! Be safe. Stay hydrated. Stay connected with members. See you in September!



## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

I am excited that chapter members can meet in person, September 1, for the chapter's 50th anniversary celebration! What a special time to be able to return to meeting in person!



I want to say “thank you” to all who participated in our Zoom virtual meetings. While not the same as in person, it was nice to see smiling faces and/or hear familiar voices. We had some wonderful presentations, and will continue to search for interesting and informative presentations for chapter meetings. Program suggestions are always welcome!



To note – if you are working on a chapter committee, I will be happy to set up a Zoom virtual meeting to assist your committee. Just let me know.

You will read below that we have a new chapter service officer – Ellen LeVee. A long-time chapter member, she recently volunteered to serve in this position. She will be a great asset. Thank you, Ellen!

And on a personal note, I recently sold my home and moved. Whew, what an adventure! Here are some tips:

- ◆ Give yourself plenty of time.
- ◆ Don't rush the closing date on your sale, if you have sold your home. I wish I had added another month.
- ◆ Get at least 3 estimates from local movers and interview each of them.
- ◆ Remember to contact all your utilities and other services to end on your move-out date.
- ◆ You can order packing boxes if you are doing your own packing from, e.g., U-Haul and Amazon.
- ◆ The Tri-Cities has many places to donate items you no longer need, including the new Veterans Warehouse Thrift Store in Kennewick. If I hadn't used it in 6 months, it is gone.

## Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

Hello, chapter members. As both President Pat and Vice President Nancy wrote in their articles, I recently volunteered to serve as the chapter service officer. I am a retired federal employee with experience in working with retirement, insurance, death claims and other benefits for Department of Energy, Richland, and the Bonneville Power Administration. So, if you need assistance, please email me at [ejlevee22@charter.net](mailto:ejlevee22@charter.net), or call me at 509.438.4284. (If calling, please leave a message; I will return the call.)



NARFE's next webinar, “Discover the True Cost and value of CSRS/FERS Survivor Benefits,” is Tuesday, July 20, 11 a.m., PDT. Tammy Flanagan, NARFE federal benefits expert, will provide information on this important topic,

whether you are a current employee, retiree, or separated employee and currently waiting for a postponed or deferred retirement from OPM.

To access the webinar, go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Log in, then go to the NARFE Home Page, Officer Resources, Resource Library, and then click on Webinars.

Did you know some FEHB plans offer reimbursement toward Medicare Part B premiums? NARFE has a chart that shows the nationwide and regional plans providing a reimbursement. To check whether this applies to your plan, go to the NARFE Home Page, scroll to Federal Benefit Topics, then click on “For Federal Benefits Department Home Page, click here.” Once there scroll to “FEHB Plans with Medicare Reimbursement.” If you need assistance, please contact me.

## WSF President – Steve Roy

The Washington State Federation (WSF) bylaws require an annual federation meeting. Last year it was held virtually in May. This year's annual meeting will again be virtual. The date is being confirmed, but the federation executive board is targeting the last week in September. I have asked Jessica Klement, NARFE's staff vice president, policy and programs, to be our guest speaker and to provide an update on NARFE's legislative activities. For members not able to attend **LEGCON21**, this will be an opportunity to get a NARFE legislative update. The agenda will also include an overall WSF update. Watch for more information in your next chapter newsletter, in electronic updates from me (for those who have email addresses listed with NARFE) and on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).



As your WSF legislative chair, I am continuing to emphasize contacting our elected officials, either directly or electronically via NARFE's Advocacy Department, [www.narfe.org/legislation](http://www.narfe.org/legislation). There are template letters that can be sent electronically within minutes.

At **LEGCON21**, we were asked to focus specifically on “asking” our legislators to co-sponsor, or thank them for co-sponsoring, H.R. 82/S. 1302 to fully repeal both WEP and GPO, or H.R. 2337, a reform of WEP; to pause on co-sponsoring/any further action on H.R. 3076/S. 1720, the Postal Reform Act, until a full analysis is complete on the impact it would have on FEHB plan premiums; and, when it is introduced in the 117th Congress, to co-sponsor the Fair COLA for Seniors Act, requiring using the Consumer Price Index, Elderly (CPI-E) vs. CPI-W, the index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

Several things to share with you in this newsletter. First, as of July 1, Visit Tri-Cities is no longer offering basic memberships to non-tourism businesses such as our NARFE chapter. Per the letter we received from President & CEO Michael Novakovich, Visit Tri-Cities will be focusing more on “the Tri-Cities tourism community and its businesses, creating a highly competitive destination to drive economic recovery post-pandemic.” The chapter has been a member for 12 years and has benefited from its membership, especially when hosting conventions and conferences. I am confident that even in a different capacity, Visit Tri-Cities can continue to be a resource for us, should we need.



The chapter executive board approved renewing the chapter’s membership with the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the contacts we’ve made at monthly luncheons, program ideas we’ve garnered, and visibility we’ve received, have been very positive. **The next luncheon/meeting will be in person, Wednesday, August 4. Congressman Dan Newhouse is scheduled to be the guest speaker.** Please consider joining us! If we have 8 chapter members, we can have a “NARFE” table reserved. Cost: \$25. Please call me, 509.378.2494, if you have questions, need information, want to attend.

## Legislative – Mary Binder

Yes, another NARFE legislative training conference is history. There will be a recap in an upcoming NARFE



magazine, and we will also have a summary at the September chapter meeting. Meanwhile, my overall impression was – WOW! I am still in awe of what NARFE was able to accomplish with today’s technology and resources, and in a short amount of time. While I missed some in-person aspects, overall, for me, it was more convenient to “attend” at home. I did not know if I had the technical skills to follow along, but thanks to tutorials and step-by-step instructions, I had no issues. Presentations were good, and handouts easily available for viewing and printing. Truly, an amazing experience!

Being on Capitol Hill has been an integral part of these conferences. That, too, was virtual this year with the scheduling being handled through NARFE and its contract resources. What a timesaver for us in the field! These meetings were face-to-face, that is, like our monthly Zoom virtual meetings. Another positive experience! More to follow in the weeks ahead.

## 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., Suite 206, Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The second quarter for the 8-quarter, 117th Congress, 2021/2022, ended June 30. As this newsletter went to press, I was still waiting for the NARFE quarterly PAC reports.



They should be available around the middle of July. The reports will be on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Go to the Advocacy Department tab. The reports will be under NARFE-PAC. Past reports are available there, too.

## Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

The area’s annual **Walk to End Alzheimer’s** is set for **Sunday, October 10!** This WILL BE an in-person, community walk and our NARFE chapter DOES HAVE a team. I hope many members can join us, either in person and/or with financial support! To join, or just to donate to the team, go to: [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) and search for our team, “NARFE Chapter 1192.” Another option is on our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Click on “Programs” and then on the link in the box with Walk information ... an easy way to join or donate to our team! I’ll have more details in the next chapter newsletter, at upcoming chapter meetings and on the chapter website. Thank you for the support – as a walker, donor or both!



alzheimer's association

To donate to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund, please send your check to Lorie Bennett, our WSF Alzheimer’s coordinator, at: 4310 S. Kingwood Street, Kennewick WA 99337-5706. Write “Tri-Cities Chapter 1192” on the memo line. [NOTE! Lorie recently reported that the chapter donated \$1,525 during the Alzheimer’s Association’s fiscal year that ended June 30! Thank you!]

Also on our website, at the “Programs” tab, there is a link to the free Washington State Alzheimer’s Association’s Educational Outreach webinars and the ALZ magazine.

**Return Service Requested**

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

**Happy 50th Anniversary, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192!**  
**Join the chapter celebration, September 1!**

**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

As I reported at the June chapter meeting, the chapter’s finances are holding steady at around \$17,000 between the checking and savings accounts. As your treasurer, I believe this is still a good-looking amount. The chapter executive board reviews the budget at its meetings. A budget is just that, a budget or a projection of expenses. Variables include everything from membership number changes, to postage increases. Virtual vs. in-person conferences such as **LEGCON21**, have also affected projections this calendar year.



**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

For those who missed our June virtual chapter meeting, following are membership numbers I provided:

- ◆ 217 chapter members, 144 national-only members in the area for a total of 361.
- ◆ 54 members are on annual dues renewal; 11 on 2-year renewal and 32 on 3-year.
- ◆ 98 members are on dues withholding.
- ◆ 21 members have life-member status.
- ◆ We have one honorary member, who is now 100!
- ◆ 3 members received NARFE distinguished member status earlier this year.



Next, some reminders:

- ◆ As a rule, members receive a renewal notice from NARFE 3 months before their renewal date, then again at 2 months, and also a reminder from your chapter membership chair. Please double check that you have renewed your membership, including for the chapter.
- ◆ Chapter dues remain \$10, but national dues have increased from \$42 to \$48/1 year; to \$92/2 years; and to \$126/3 years.

TO:

**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

Even during the chapter’s July/August meeting hiatus, I am available should you need to contact me. I have some **new** contact information: **Darleen Wall**,  
**H: 623.556.0869; M: 509.308.2765;**  
**Email: [jdwall2@centurylink.net](mailto:jdwall2@centurylink.net).**

*I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!*



- ◆ Finally, a reminder if you want to save a little money – dues withholding for retirees. For example, rather than \$58 (\$48/NARFE dues; \$10/chapter dues), you only pay \$52 – a \$6 savings. Divide this by 12 months, and it is only \$4.33 from your monthly annuity, and you don’t have to deal with reminders!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: (H) 509.375.0739; (Text) 509.308.6664; (Email) [annahoix2@gmail.com](mailto:annahoix2@gmail.com).

**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

Since the May/June newsletter – a very quiet “sunshine” period. As a reminder, if you 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**

With in-person meetings resuming in September, this is a good time to remind members about the chapter’s website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)! Meeting information is posted, including the programs, lunch menus and minutes. Chapter newsletters are there, too. I’ve also been posting information about the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch meetings and free Alzheimer’s webinars. And, don’t forget that our Washington State Federation also has a website with a wealth of information, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).

