



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! Washington State Federation Virtual Conference, October 11-13. See page 2.

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/PROGRAMS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

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

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.

Programs for Fall Chapter Meetings

September 7 – Leanne Purcell, executive director, The Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, will provide a foundation overview, including its "Team Read" program.



October 5 – Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter, will provide an educational program on the "Ten Warning Signs" of Alzheimer's.



November 2 – Annual chapter "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Time to start thinking about items to bring!



December 7 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will again provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice.



July – August, Volume 2022, Issue 4

Chapter President – Pat Turner

Summer has finally arrived here in Southeast Washington! I hope our members are enjoying this time of year, and are healthy and safe.



Although the chapter is not meeting in July or August, exciting outreach events have been ongoing for our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 under Mary Binder's excellent leadership. See Mary's article, page 3, for some updates.

On a sad note, one of our oldest and longest NARFE members, Sig Preston, passed away in May. She was a very faithful chapter and NARFE supporter until the very end. Even though she was in declining health, she agreed to attend the chapter's 50th anniversary celebration in September 2021 – the last chapter meeting she was able to attend. I am thrilled to have had this picture with Sig.



I am VERY PLEASED to announce that, currently, 7 chapter members are planning to attend **FEDcon22**, August 21-23, in Scottsdale. In fact that represents



almost half of ALL the Washington State Federation's attendees, which reflects positively on our chapter and its members' commitment to NARFE. The agenda looks very interesting and we are looking forward to learning a lot. We'll be reporting on the conference at the September meeting. Also, for those still considering attending, yes, registration is still open!

August is also NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month. All of us play a critical role in continuing to contact our legislators about issues important to us, and especially those important to NARFE members. August is a good time to do this as legislators are typically in their districts/states before they return to Congress in September. Thank you for your continued support of advocacy. You can learn more by contacting the NARFE Advocacy Department at www.narfe.org/advocacy/.

Best wishes for a continued safe and fun summer. I am hoping to see many members at our September meeting!

Vice President – Nancy Crosby

As you read this newsletter, I am hoping you are having a fun-filled summer with friends and family.

When our chapter resumes meeting in September, we will have much to discuss – everything from **FEDcon22** to the October federation virtual conference (See *WSF President Steve's article, this page.*), elections, the chapter's participation in the area's October Walk to End Alzheimer's, and our November annual white elephant fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. (See *Larry Williams' article, page 4.*)

Speaking for myself, I am asking each member to consider learning about the chapter and federation's elected officer and committee coordinator positions and responsibilities, and then consider running for an elected position or volunteering to chair, or co-chair, a committee. I know current officers and coordinators are willing to serve as mentors and assist in every way to help anyone considering taking a more active role in the chapter or federation. Although this is not an election year for our chapter, members can sit in on our virtual board meetings on Zoom to familiarize themselves with the board process.

Our next virtual board meeting is Monday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. Let me know if you wish to attend and I will send you the Zoom link information.

Chapters are continuing to close, primarily due to a lack of leadership. Our chapter is viable and we continue to work to keep it so with interesting programs and information, including legislative and benefits updates. The list of chapter officers and coordinators is on page 1. Please review it and see if there is one that interests you!

Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

A reminder! OPM has new secure login services at www.login.gov. You will need to create an account. If you have an old account, you will be directed to the new login. Note! If you have multiple OPM accounts, different email addresses are needed for each to use login.gov.

NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

Looking head, NARFE has 2 webinars in September:

- ♦ The 14th, "The TSP's New Mutual Fund Window;"
- ♦ The 29th, "To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for You?"

Webinars are at 2 p.m., ET, and are FREE to members. And, a change – only recent and past relevant webinars vs. all past webinars are archived on the NARFE website.



WE ARE RECRUITING!



If you have questions or need assistance in locating any of the above information, please contact me at ejlevee22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message and I will return your call!)

WSF President – Steve Roy

I hope everyone has been able to swing into summer, and enjoy healthy and safe times with family and friends!

Although most Washington State Federation (WSF) chapters do not meet in the summer, some still have activities. For example, the Everett chapter has an annual picnic – this year, Wednesday, August 17 – in support of NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month. The chapter extends an invite to Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, and Representatives Suzan DelBene (WA-01) and Rick Larsen (WA-02). Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 members are invited, too!

Yes, August is a good time to contact and/or meet with our elected officials as they are typically back in their home states or districts. So, I encourage you to set up a meeting with Representative Dan Newhouse (WA-04) and Senators Murray and Cantwell, or a staff member, to advocate for protecting our earned pay and benefits. Squeaky wheels often have a better chance of being heard!

Sadly, 2 more WSF chapters are now closed – Northwest Cascades and East Lake Washington. A third, Columbia Basin/Ephrata is in the process of closing. So, we now have only 14 chapters vs. a high of more than 30 several years ago. As your chapter VP Nancy wrote in her article, the primary reason for closures is a lack of leadership. We need members willing to fill both elected and committee coordinator positions. Note: "co-chairing" is an option for some positions. Currently, our federal legislative and NARFE-PAC coordinator positions remain vacant. Please contact Mary Binder if you have questions and/or want to fill these positions or an elected officer position. Elections will be prior to our WSF virtual October conference. (See below.)

Three reminders:

- ♦ WSF "scholarships" are available for **FEDcon22**, for WSF members in good standing who attend and submit the WSF F-I reimbursement form/receipts. This includes up to \$190 for registration and up to \$750 for related expenses. [Editor's note: Chapter 1192 will also reimburse \$250 for irs chapter members who attend.]
- ♦ National officer elections are this year. Please vote!
- ♦ October 11-13, the (virtual) WSF annual meeting and conference. Watch for details via emails, this newsletter, chapter meetings, and the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

Busy, busy, BUSY since the last newsletter as the focus remains to “outreach” to the community about NARFE. Here are some outreach highlights from recent events:

- ♦ May 21-23, a NARFE table at the Washington State Rural Letter Carriers Associations’ (WARLCA) convention, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center.

Members Johanna Caylor, Hazel Elliott and Terese Pratt helped me staff our NARFE table during the convention, and I had an opportunity to provide a short presentation about NARFE. We had positive feedback, got several new members, and NARFE is invited to next year’s WARLCA convention in Silverdale.



Ladies in pink! No, it wasn’t planned! Left, Mary Binder; right, Hazel Elliott; center, Julie Houston, National Auxiliary executive chair, NRLCA.

- ♦ May 21, a NARFE table at the veterans’ fair, Three Rivers Conventions Center, hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse. Results – a meet/greet with the Congressman; several great conversations with attendees; contacts for future chapter programs; and, a new chapter member, Judy West, who was at our June chapter meeting. Welcome, Judy! Thanks to chapter members Johanna Caylor, Faye Vlieger and John Wetterling for helping staff the table.

- ♦ May 25, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) annual meeting/awards ceremony. President Pat and I attended this and had great interactions with Chamber members we knew or who were new to us.



Photo courtesy of TCRCC

- ♦ June 16, President Pat and I attended the Vista Field, Phase One, grand-opening event – well-planned, well-attended and very interesting! We had an opportunity to talk with Project Manager Shannon Toranzo, Total Site Services, the local company that had the contract for this phase. (Photo, left)



Looking ahead to more ways to talk about NARFE:

- ♦ Watch for a new “senior guide” publication to be published soon for our area of the state. We have 2 NARFE/chapter “ads” in the guide.
- ♦ October 9 – the chapter will have a NARFE table at the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. (See Larry Williams’ article, page 4, regarding the Walk.)
- ♦ October 18 – the chapter will again have a NARFE table at the Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, as we did in May. The event garnered new members and other great contacts.

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

Legislative – Mary Binder


Chapter “outreach” efforts have continued in our legislative arena, too! Ensuring Congressman Newhouse and his staff know about NARFE and our chapter remain top priorities. May 1, President Pat, NARFE-PAC Coordinator John Wetterling and I attended a dinner, CG Public House, Kennewick, for Congressman Newhouse on behalf of NARFE. Many local officials also attended. John talked with the Congressman about his work at the Ice Harbor Dam. (Above photo)



July 6, I attended a Congressman Newhouse-hosted event at the Richland Community Center listening to veterans, and their issues and concerns. (Photo, left) Enlightening. And, I am registered for an August 3, Washington Policy Center event, CG Public House, Kennewick, for updates on state issues and legislation.



NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 6th quarter PAC reports for the 2021/2022 cycle ending June 30 should soon be on the NARFE website,  www.narfe.org for your review. I will also report on them at the September chapter meeting.

Election season is here, so PAC contributions are needed more than ever to help ensure individuals are elected or re-elected who support issues important to both current federal employees and retirees. Donations can be made using the form in each *NARFE Magazine* or online. Becoming a “sustainer” is another option – a monthly deduction of at least \$10 from your federal annuity or a credit card.

Finally, a reminder, NARFE is “political but nonpartisan.” It supports candidates/officials who support protecting pay and benefits for current and retired federal employees.

Return Service Requested

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

TO:

Dates to Remember
Washington State Primary, August 2
FEDcon22, August 21-23
Next chapter meeting, September 7
WSF Virtual Conference, October 11-13

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

A short report! The chapter’s combined bank balance was at about \$16,500.00 at the time of this newsletter. All current bills and financial obligations have been paid!



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

First, a THANK YOU to all our sustaining members for their years supporting our chapter! We appreciate you! Our May/June NARFE “activity” reports showed: 1 member passed; 2 members dropped for non-renewal; 8 members renewed; 1 member reinstated.

Reminders to all members:

- ◆ Your NARFE ID number is on your *NARFE Magazine* mailing label. To get “recruiter” credit, put it on application forms.
- ◆ Consider a one-year gift membership to a friend or family member working for the federal government. A great retirement gift, too!
- ◆ For current federal employees (CFEs), please encourage your co-workers to join NARFE. Share your *NARFE Magazine*. I have extras if you need.
- ◆ Dues withholding saves retirees \$6.04 annually and only \$4.33 monthly from their annuity. Want to know more? Need help? Contact me. (See below.)



Need an extra magazine and/or have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, annahojx2@gmail.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the May/June newsletter)

Condolences to: member Cora Baldwin on the passing of her sister/member, Sig Preston and Sig’s son, Mark, and also to Linnea Preston, Sig’s daughter; members Burr and Hazel Elliott on the passing of Burr’s brother; member Julie Goeckners on the passing of her mother, Edie Wattenburger; family of member Marji Parker



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

REMINDER! Our chapter’s callers will make their **annual calls to all local chapter members** just prior to the September chapter meeting. **Please help us** by responding to their calls or messages so we can verify your contact information. Meanwhile, have a safe summer!

If you need to contact me, below is my contact information:

Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869;
Email: jdwall2@centurylink.net.



Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes to members: Liz Bowers, Chuck Clayton, Nancy Crosby; and, to member Betty Robertson to let her know members are thinking of her and her ill daughter, Sandra Schoenrock (who also received a card)
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
Reminders! Sunday, October 9, the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s! Our chapter team is registered, so you can sign up for the walk and/or make a donation. Go to www.alz.org/walk, then click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in the box titled “Team Name,” which will take you to a registration/donation page.



WSF Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett recently wrote donations are down for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. She encouraged members to donate. Also, remember our November white elephant fundraiser!

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Check the chapter, www.narfe1192.org, and federation, www.narfewa.org, websites for a wealth of information!