

Reminder! Washington State Federation Virtual Annual Meeting, September 27. See pages 1 & 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, Nancy Crosby (Acting)	509.735.3288
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: \$25; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian meals 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

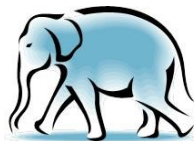
September 6 – NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) President Cray Henry will be the program speaker. He will provide an update on the federation. It will also be the chapter's 52nd anniversary!



October 4 – A speaker from either the Benton County or Franklin County conservation districts will provide an overview of these organizations and their focus on wise stewardship of all natural resources in the counties.



November 1 – Annual chapter "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. **Time to start thinking about items to bring!**



December 6 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will once again provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice.



July – August, Volume 2023, Issue 4

Chapter President – Pat Turner

I am still recovering from my injuries due to an April car accident. I am mobile and have in-home physical therapy that is helping me get back my strength. I have MISSED seeing you at the recent chapter meetings but have heard we had some great programs and good turnouts. Also, I very much appreciate the officers and coordinators "holding up the fort" and keeping us in business!



Thank you for honoring my request not to be disturbed to give me the privacy I needed during my recovery. I hope to be able to join you again in September. Meanwhile, please take care and enjoy the remainder of the summer. And, take it from me, DRIVE DEFENSIVELY, AND BE CAREFUL!

Vice President – Nancy Crosby

I hope you're having a GREAT summer... it has really warmed up again this year, at least as of when I was writing this note!



As President Pat noted above, she is still recovering from injuries she sustained in an April car accident. I will continue to fill in for her so please contact me rather than Pat if you have questions and/or issues for the president.

Looking ahead to the September chapter meeting, as noted to the left, this page, WSF President Cray Henry will be the program speaker. Also, he will be inviting members to the September 27 annual federation meeting. It will be virtual via Zoom and start at 10:00 a.m. **All federation members are invited to attend!** More details at the September meeting, in the next chapter newsletter and on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.

A reminder! We are looking for new chapter officers and appointed coordinators for several functions. (Officer positions are: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. See the chart, top left, for the list of coordinators.) Officer elections will be at the November chapter meeting with installation at the December meeting.



(continued on page 2)

Some chapter officers have continued to serve past their term limits [“...2 consecutive 2-year terms, or until a successor is elected and assumes office,” per our bylaws] as the chapter means so much to them they continue to stay in their roles to support it.

Many NARFE chapters, including in our Washington State Federation, have closed due to officer burnout and the lack of other members willing to serve in those positions. I am hoping our chapter will not be among those. PLEASE consider serving in an officer or coordinator position. If you have questions and/or need more information, PLEASE contact me, or Mary Binder.

Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

As I announced at the June chapter meeting, Service Officer Ellen LeVee resigned as she has other things she needs to focus on. Until a replacement is found, I will serve as the acting service officer.

So, a couple of things. NARFE Federal Benefits Institute experts are staunch advocates for current and retired federal employees and their families, and have a wealth of information. They are available to assist you. Contact information is in each *NARFE Magazine*, but a reminder, the number to call is 800.456.8410, then, option 2.

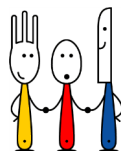
Here is what a NARFE member wrote after contacting the Institute: *“I had paid for training that didn’t answer my questions and I was about to pay for another session, but then I called NARFE. Their federal benefits experts are amazing! With their assistance, I discovered that I had access to a much greater financial benefit than I thought. They made a huge difference in my retirement outlook – just speaking with them paid for my NARFE membership for life! Thank you NARFE!”*

NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

There is a July NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinar: Wednesday, July 19, 2 p.m., ET, “Debunking Federal Retirement Myths.” NARFE federal benefits experts Tammy Flanagan and Mark Keen “will highlight some of the common myths and misconceptions around the federal retirement process.” Webinars are FREE to members. Can’t attend the actual webinar? Not a problem. They are archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. For future webinars, watch for announcements in the *NARFE Magazine*, on the NARFE website, and in electronic messages. They will also be announced at chapter meetings and in chapter newsletters.

Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

Have lunch menu ideas, suggestions, comments, feedback? Please let me know! I will be working with our Red Lion catering contact in the fall on the 2024 menu.



WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

“Busy” continues to be a good word for Washington State Federation-level (WSF) activities, although officers and coordinators are trying to balance those with summer activities, too. Virtual



meetings continue as officers and coordinators work on several projects, everything from strategic planning to updating position descriptions and policies and procedures, to planning the federation’s annual meeting (virtual) in September to an in-person federation conference in October 2024! So, a few updates for you.

In June there were 2 statewide postal conventions – the Washington state Rural Letter Carriers Association (WARLCA) and the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) – where we had a NARFE table and at which I was able to make a presentation about NARFE. The WARLCA convention was in Silverdale; the UPMA convention was at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick. I am pleased to report that between the 2 conventions there are 15 either new and/or reinstated NARFE members, and we have been invited to attend their next conventions! A special thank you to Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor and member Janice Lake for their help with the UPMA convention!

Both Wenatchee Chapter 239 and Yakima Chapter 238 are now officially closed. While it is disheartening to have to close chapters, I am encouraged that most of those chapters’ members are continuing their NARFE membership either as national-only members or as members of different chapters, including the Tri-Cities chapter. With these closures, there are now just 3 remaining chapters in Eastern Washington: Spokane Chapter 32; Colville Valley Chapter 1247, and Tri-Cities Chapter 1192. To all those who were in the closed chapters, thank you for your continued NARFE membership!

Now, a look ahead at some upcoming events:

- ◆ As noted on page 1, WSF President Cray Henry will be the program speaker at the Tri-Cities chapter’s September 6 meeting. This will be his first visit to the chapter since becoming our WSF president in October 2022, so a good opportunity to meet and learn more about him, along with getting updates on our Washington federation. **All regional chapter and national-only members are welcome to attend!** I am hoping for a great turnout!
- ◆ September 27, starting at 10:00 a.m., the (virtual) WSF annual meeting. **All WSF members are invited!**
- ◆ And, looking WAY AHEAD, an IN-PERSON Region IX (5-state) conference, October 24-26, 2024, at the Three Rivers Convention Center! More details in the months ahead, but mark your calendars! Interested in helping? Please contact me. Thank you!

Public Relations – Mary Binder

Continuing to find opportunities to “reach out” to individuals and communities to let them know about NARFE is a primary focus of public relations and membership. Together, these are referred to as “outreach.” The statewide postal conventions highlighted on page 2 are examples. Other recent examples include the April Senior Times Expo in Kennewick and the May veterans fair in Yakima hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse. All these events have resulted in new members and good contacts with area businesses. **NOTE! Congressman Newhouse is the scheduled speaker at the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting, August 23. Contact me if you want to attend!**



For your calendars, a couple of upcoming events where we will have a NARFE table:

- ◆ October 14 – the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. (See *Larry Williams’ article, page 4, regarding the Walk.*)
- ◆ October 17 – the fall Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.



More details at the fall chapter meetings and in the next newsletter. If you are interested in helping at these events, please contact me.

Legislative – Mary Binder

Yes, the NARFE biennial legislative training conference did happen! Up until 2021, these conferences were held in Washington, D.C., in March, so just shortly after each new Congress came into session. As in other areas of our lives, COVID brought changes to these conferences, including going virtual. VP Nancy Crosby and I were able to attend this 3-day virtual event. From Nancy, “I enjoyed it very much. I suggest you participate in **LEGcon25!**”



Nancy also said attending the conference virtually was a lot easier on her than when she had to travel to D.C., although it was “nice to see the offices of our senators and representatives.” I agree! In fact I “attended” the conference while on a Midwest trip, something I would not have been able to do if it had been in D.C. Both Nancy and I think the in-house training sessions were excellent as were the guest speakers. Also, the break-out sessions were great refreshers on how to approach and talk with our legislators and their staffs. Per Nancy, “The conference was well orchestrated, and I really appreciate all the work of the NARFE staff.”

For those wanting more information from **LEGcon23**, NARFE will be posting conference presentations on its website, www.narfe.org.

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

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month. Typically, our U.S. representatives and senators are home for an extended period of time so it is a great opportunity to reach out to them. More details will be in the August *NARFE Magazine* and electronically from NARFE.

To note, at **LEGcon23**, attendees were asked to focus on 3 “asks” when meeting with our elected officials:

- ◆ H.R. 82/S. 597, Social Security Fairness Act, which is the repeal of “the evil twins,” GPO and WEP.
- ◆ H.R. 866, the Equal COLA Act, which would provide full COLAS to FERS employees and retirees.
- ◆ Protecting earned benefits from cuts.

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterliing

The second quarter PAC reports for the 118th Congress, April 1 through June 30, should be posted on the NARFE website by around mid-July. There will also be summary information at the September chapter meeting.

I was recently asked, “What is NARFE-PAC?” This made me think that sometimes we use terms and/or talk about programs and forget not everyone knows what we are talking about. So, a good reminder for me!

NARFE’s “political action committee” (PAC) is its political but nonpartisan “arm” that works to protect NARFE members’ pay and benefits by raising and spending money to elect members of Congress who support the federal community.” The “PAC” works for us “by building strong relationships with lawmakers and providing NARFE with additional opportunities to share our most pressing concerns.” It is “financed through NARFE members’ direct, voluntary contributions to a separate fund. Federal law prohibits NARFE-PAC from soliciting contributions from anyone other than NARFE members and the immediate family of these individuals.” Member dues are not used.



Return Service Requested

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

Dates to Remember

Washington State Primary, August 1
WSF Virtual Annual Meeting, September 27
Walk to End Alzheimer's, October 14
Senior Times Expo, October 17

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

As reported at the June chapter meeting, the chapter's combined bank balance was over \$20,500. The increase of about \$4,000 from my previous report was primarily due to monies received from members transferred to the chapter from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters. Also, all current bills and financial obligations have been paid!



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of July 3, our Tri-Cities chapter had **491** members – **248** chapter members and **243** national-only members in the chapter area. The increase does reflect some new and reinstated members but also members transferred to us from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters. Welcome, welcome, WELCOME to these members!!

Welcome

Dues withholding: More than 115 chapter members are using this payment option. It is painless, costs only \$4.33/month and you send NO MONEY with your application or renewal form. If you want more information or assistance to enroll, I can help you. A 2023 goal is to increase our dues withholding number!

Gift memberships: Consider a one-year gift membership to a friend or family member working for the federal government. A great retirement gift, too!

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: Melinda Soptich on the passing of her husband/member, Daniel.

Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes: Thank you for my get well card!



TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

REMINDER! Our chapter's callers will make their **annual calls to chapter members** just prior to the September chapter meeting; but this year, they will be making calls to all **regional, not just local, members**. For example, calls will include to members in our Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima areas. **Please help us** by responding to their calls or messages so we can verify your contact information and whether you want to be called for future meetings.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you need to contact me, below is my contact information:

Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869;
Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.



PS! More callers needed! Contact me if you can help!

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

The 2023 local Walk to End Alzheimer's is Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland! A REMINDER!



This is a NEW location AND day of the week! Our chapter team is registered, and again we will have a NARFE table at the walk. To register 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.” That will take you to a registration/donation page.

Webmaster – Larry Williams

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

