



TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192 NARFE NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Advocates for Active and Former Federal Employees

www.NARFE1192.org

March – April, Volume 2009, Issue 2

2009 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Nancy Crosby	509-735-3288
1st Vice President, Gary Hagedorn	509-547-3015
2nd Vice President, Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Treasurer, Phil LaMont	509-582-7153
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
NARFE-PAC, Don Binder	509-585-1393
Service Officers, Mary Goldie, Nancy Schreckhise	509-582-8757 509-585-7558
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509-375-7757
Public Relations, Nancy Crosby	509-735-3288
Sunshine, Anne Ross	509-586-3355
Parliamentarian, Mable Rutt	509-943-1812
Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Membership, Newsletter Johanna Caylor	509-308-6664
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509-783-8554
Deacon, Al Rizzo	509-375-0446

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS/NEWSLETTER

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Clearwater Room A
Lunch: \$12; reservations needed whenever possible
Executive Board meets after Chapter meetings

March 4 – Meeting: KGH's Rod Coler Center and its services
Menu: Fresh Tilapia Filet w/Lemon Pepper and Wine

April 1 – Meeting: Terry/Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers
Legislative Training Workshop recap
Menu: Vegetarian Lasagna
Bring: one small item for appraisal!

April 3 – District Workshop, Wenatchee, all members welcome

**May 14-15 – Washington Federation Convention, Wenatchee,
all members welcome**

Hidden Numbers: There are 3 in this issue – last 4 digits of your membership number. Contact Johanna Caylor, 509-308-6664, if you find yours and win \$5! Congratulations to **Erma Jean Pittman** for finding her number in the Jan/Feb newsletter! *The other 2 hidden numbers belonged to Esther Gordon and Dyanna Forsythe...sorry!!*

SERVICE CENTER

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,
Federal Bldg., Room 137; Phone: 509-373-9536

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Forward	\$ 7,636.64
Total income	\$ 674.26
Total expenditures	\$ 628.30
Total obligations *	\$ 3,150.00
Balance on hand	\$ 4,532.60

*As of January 31, 2009

Chapter President – Nancy Crosby

A special thanks to all who supported our February food drive. We filled 3 grocery carts and had almost \$100 in cash donations. Our local food bank was very appreciative.

NARFE has an annual **scholarship program** for graduating high-school seniors who are children or grandchildren of NARFE members! Information and an application are in the February NARFE magazine and on line at www.narfe.org.

We have several activities on the horizon. You'll find these highlighted in the newsletter and on our chapter Web site: www.narfe1192.org. Besides our chapter newsletter and the monthly NARFE magazine, the Web site is a good source of information. And, as always, questions, discussion items or suggestions for meeting programs are most welcome!

We are often asked: Why belong to NARFE? One answer: Many of our entitlements are under scrutiny and NARFE provides a collective voice in making a difference on Capitol Hill. Our national organization has been proactive in urging Congress to address many issues impacting our active and retired federal employees. 7284Here are 2 examples:

- In the recently signed government stimulus package, Social Security, Veteran, SSI or Railroad Retirement beneficiaries who are not otherwise wage earners will see a one-time \$250 increase in their payments. Federal retirees not eligible for these payments can take a newly created \$250 per person refundable tax credit in 2009.
- TSP announced a new tax law for 2009 that suspends the required minimum distributions at age 70½ or older. If this affects you, you should receive an explanatory letter from the TSP. The Web site is: www.tsp.gov.

Finally, Happy Spring!

District V Vice President – Carl Gallion

Our 2009 District V Workshop is scheduled for Friday, April 3, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee. There is no cost to our chapter members. Meeting includes coffee, sweets, fruit and a hot lunch. This is a great chance to spend a day with other chapter, district and federation members and receive important information! Contact me or Nancy Crosby for reservations and travel arrangements.

Our Federation's statewide annual convention is set for May 14-15, Wenatchee. This is another great opportunity to spend time with other chapter, district and federation members and get important updates. And, the convention's guest speaker will be NARFE President Margaret Baptiste! More information will be available at our upcoming chapter meeting, or feel free to contact Nancy Crosby or Mary Binder.

And as always, feel free to contact me at cbgallion@aol.com, or 509-539-9179, if you have questions or concerns.

Alzheimer's Fund – William (Bill) Darke

Reminder: Writing an Alzheimer's donation check and want our chapter to get credit? Make it payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's" and put "Chapter 1192" on the memo line.

NARFE-PAC News – Don Binder

I've received the 2009-2010 NARFE-PAC pins. Anyone making a PAC contribution of \$20 or more is eligible for a pin. So, bring cash or check to the next chapter meeting for "**NARFE-PAC Month**" and receive a pin. Also, the 2007-2008 NARFE-PAC cycle for the 110th Congress ended Dec. 31. Here is a summary:

- Total NARFE-PAC contributions, \$958,752.53
- Total Washington Federation contributions, \$34,267.00
- Total Tri-Cities Chapter contributions, \$1,065.00
- Average NARFE-PAC contribution, \$23.33
- Average Washington Federation contribution, \$26.38
- Average Tri-Cities Chapter contribution, \$26.62

Legislation – Don and Mary Binder

So much Congressional activity that it makes our heads spin! But to help focus, maintaining existing benefits remains a top NARFE priority. And, NARFE legislative priorities remain:

- Government Pension Offset 6883
- Windfall Elimination Provision
- Health Premium Conversion
- Sick leave credit for retiring FERS employees

Both in the House and Senate members have re-introduced legislation covering all 4 issues. A goal is to again have our state Congressional members co-sponsor these initiatives. We'll provide updates at chapter meetings as they become available. Also look for updates in the *NARFE* magazine, and the NARFE and our chapter's Web sites. Finally, letting our elected representatives know our views remains important. Below is contact information. If you need help contacting elected officials, please contact us: 509-585-1393.

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202-224-2621; Fax: 202-224-0238

<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

402 East Yakima Avenue, 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://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A

Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509-946-8106 Fax: 509-946-6937

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202-225-5816 Fax: 202-225-3251

<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>

2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D

Pasco, WA 99301

Phone: 509-543-9396 Fax: 509-546-1972

Sunshine News – Anne Ross

Sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of these NARFE members who recently passed away: Ernest Page; Dirres Cohoe; and Beverly Spicci (lost spouse, Douglas Fults). Our own Carl Gallion is recovering from hip surgery and Norm Ravelly is being treated at Virginia Mason in Seattle. Get-well and thinking of you cards continue to be mailed to NARFE family members and co-workers. Please call me, 509-586-3355, if you know anyone needing a card.

Service Center – Mary Goldie, Nancy Schreckhise

It is **very important** for family members to have information they will need when an individual receiving payment from OPM dies. **The important toll-free OPM number for reporting such a death is: 1- 888-767-6738.** For active employees, family members would need to contact the employee's servicing HR office. The Service Center can also assist. See the newsletter's 4291 front page for operating hours and contact information. Finally, a good NARFE publication to have is F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*. It is on line at www.narfe.org and at the Service Center.

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Albert Michals, newest member as of Jan 31. **Reinstatements:** Diane Berthon, J.P. Hamric, Mel Wicks. **Dues Withholding:** Philip LaMont.

NARFE announces a chapter recruiting contest, Jan. 2009 – July 2010! There are 3 categories, based on a chapter's size, and 3 cash awards in each category. Awardees will be recognized at the 2010 NARFE National Convention, Grand Rapid, Mich. NARFE needs new members. Help our chapter and NARFE grow and sustain strength! More details will be in future newsletters and at our Chapter meetings. If you have questions, please call me, 509-308-6664 or 509-375-0739.

Reminder: If you change your mailing, e-mail address, or phone number, please contact me. This is very important so we can continue to provide you chapter information.