



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

Important! Chapter monthly "virtual" meetings continue! Details: pages 1 and 2.

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	509.586.8232
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, Vacant*	
Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

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

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Virtual Chapter Meetings Continue!

Virtual vs. in-person chapter meetings, including meeting programs, continue monthly, each first Wednesday, for the foreseeable future.

See VP Nancy's article, page 2. 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.

March 3 – Clark Crouch, an award-winning western and cowboy poet, and the author of several books, is scheduled to talk about his poetry and read some of his poems. Clark is also a NARFE member, and former Tri-Cities chapter member, who is now living in Woodinville, Wash., with his wife, Barbara.



April 7 – To be announced. Updates will be posted on the chapter's website.



Reminders!
St. Patrick's Day, March 17
Passover Begins, March 27; Easter, April 4



March – April, Volume 2021, Issue 2

Chapter President – Pat Turner

Let's think spring! As I write this message, I keep thinking about how lovely spring is in the Tri-Cities; but meanwhile, most of us are being pounded by what seems to be never-ending snow. Please be safe!



At this time, I have no new information to report about the chapter retuning to in-person meetings. So, our Zoom virtual meetings continue for the foreseeable future. I encourage all members, whether chapter or national-only, to attend. Also, if there is a program of interest to a potential NARFE member, please invite them, too. If you are not familiar with using Zoom, you can always join with another member who will be on Zoom, or contact Vice President Nancy Crosby for assistance in becoming familiar with Zoom.

We have an excellent program for our March meeting! Clark Crouch, a retiree from the Department of Energy, is a nationally recognized poet. Clark will be sharing his poems with us during his virtual presentation. Clark spent many years being active/volunteering for local non-profit organizations, especially local Toastmasters clubs.

On a different topic, I recently learned that Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is one of the most viable chapters in our Washington State Federation. This year the chapter will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Over the years, our members and leaders have helped ensure our chapter's success. Looking ahead we will need members to remain viable. So, to all chapter members, please continue to search for/recruit new members. Think about all the people you know who might be members and/or have family members or friends who could be members. If you are not comfortable recruiting, please give names and contact information to me, to Membership Chairman Johanna Caylor, or to any board member.

Until next time, THINK SPRING, SPRING FORWARD March 14, and remember my messages – mask up and family first!



**Daylight Saving Time,
March 14**

Vice President – Nancy Crosby

As President Pat wrote in her article, we will continue holding our chapter monthly meetings “virtually” until we can again meet in person. I encourage you to join us to get chapter and federation updates, and enjoy a guest speaker. The board works hard to bring you informative programs that give information and/or entertainment.

To date we have had around 10 members participate in our virtual meetings besides our 10-member chapter board. I have an ongoing “invitation” list and add to it as members request an invitation to join a meeting. Please let me know if you want to be added.

Note! Members with desktop, laptop, smartphone or tablet capabilities can participate. If you do not have an email address on file with me, or need help with Zoom, please give me a call at 509.735.3288 (leave a message and I will return the call), or send me an email at ncrosby2b@charter.net.



Service Office – Nancy Crosby

Recently, Pat, Mary and I have received several “need-assistance” calls from members or a family member of a member. Most callers have needed help with medical or life insurance benefits, or assistance when a member, spouse or other relative has passed away. As NARFE members, we owe our families information they will need regarding notifying OPM, Social Security, financial entities, etc., when there is a death.

NARFE has an excellent, free document for members to use for compiling this needed information, the F-100, *Be Prepared for Life’s Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*. It is available on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. (Log in, then go to the NARFE Home Page, Officer Resources, Resource Library, and Be Prepared.) The document is fillable online and can be saved to your computer, a thumb drive, disk, etc., and updated as needed. Once completed, ensure at least one family member or friend has a copy or knows how to access the document.

If you do not have computer access and need a copy of the F-100, or need other assistance with the document, please let me know. Another resource for assistance is the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute office at 800.456.8410, and then option 2.

Tax season is here! NARFE’s next webinar may be helpful to you, “Tax Planning for Federal Retirees,” Thursday, March 18, 2 p.m., EDT. Mark Keen, CFP, and

the NARFE Magazine “Managing Money” columnist, will be the webinar presenter. The webinar is free to NARFE members. If you cannot join the webinar, it will be on the NARFE website along with all past webinars. Once you are logged on the website, go to the NARFE Home Page. Under Resource Library, click on Webinars.

WSF President – Steve Roy

[Editor’s Note: President Steve attended the chapter’s virtual February meeting. Following is from his report to members.]



What is our federation’s future? How might it be structured to continue to best serve our Washington State NARFE members, both chapter and national-only? To review these and other questions, I established the WSF Reinvention Committee with representatives from across the state and from the WSF Executive Board. The committee met virtually for the first time January 22 and then again February 19. To note, the federation lost 355 members last year between March and December. This is concerning, and while not unique to our state, I want to work to ensure that along with other state federation leaders, we are doing what we can to continue to serve our members.

I am pleased to report that members of Olympia/Timberland Chapter 236 have voted to remain open. The chapter was on the verge of closing even though it is one of the state’s larger chapters with more than 625 members. Several members stepped up for leadership positions and I am hopeful the chapter will resume meeting soon.

In my role as your federation legislative chairman, I want to emphasize the importance of contacting our elected officials, either directly or through NARFE’s Advocacy Department, which has template letters that can be sent electronically within minutes, www.narfe.org/legislation. Our elected officials need to hear from us. For those of you in the state’s 4th congressional district, that would be Congressman Dan Newhouse.



NARFE currently has several “campaigns” in progress asking members to contact their elected officials. Besides the efforts to repeal GPO and WEP that I wrote about in your January/February newsletter, NARFE is also campaigning for the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act and the Equal COLAS Act. The proposed FAIR Act would provide an average federal pay raise of 3.2 percent for 2022; the Equal COLA Act would provide FERS retirees with full cost-of-living adjustments, ensuring equal COLAs for all federal retirees.

Finally, a reminder that NARFE provides updates on the status of legislation important to members in the NARFE Magazine, electronically and on the NARFE website.

Public Relations – Mary Binder

It is again that time of year – deadlines approaching for 2 annual NARFE programs. First, the NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program, which is open to high school seniors who are the children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of NARFE members. Applications are due March 25. Information has been in *NARFE* magazines and is on the Federal Employees Education Association website: www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships. Email questions about the program to: scholarship@narfe.org.



Next, NARFE's 2021 Photo Contest. Photos are due to NARFE by April 2. This year's theme is "Greetings from the USA." See page 44, January/February *NARFE Magazine*, or go to: www.narfe.org/photocontest.



Legislative – Mary Binder

Have you ever wondered, or has someone asked you, "What is NARFE's position on [fill in the blank]?" Have you wondered about NARFE's legislative priorities? Positions vs. priorities ... the difference? Hopefully, the following will provide answers and updates!

NARFE has published its "Advocacy Positions for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)." See pages 34-37, January/February *NARFE Magazine*. To note, "NARFE's Advocacy Positions for the 117th Congress provide an extensive and specific enumeration of NARFE's positions on legislative and administrative policies."



NARFE advocacy primarily focuses on these priorities:

- ◆ *Defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's current and retired civil servants.*
- ◆ Protect the viability, stability and standards of service of established federal government functions."

More specifically, NARFE's 117th Congress Legislative priorities are:

- ◆ Oppose any cuts to earned federal retirement and health benefits;
- ◆ Support market rate increases to federal pay rates/ oppose federal employee compensation cuts;
- ◆ Support reform or repeal of the WEP and GPO;
- ◆ Revitalize the federal workforce;
- ◆ Support more accurate COLAs for federal retirees;
- ◆ Ensure postal reform bills protect postal retiree health benefits;
- ◆ Support improved integration of Medicare with the FEHB Program;
- ◆ Support COVID-19 relief provisions for the federal community.

No longer have your January/February *NARFE Magazine*?

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

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Want more specific details about NARFE's positions and priorities? The information, including an "Issue Brief" with the legislative priorities, is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, at the Advocacy Department tab. Please also feel free to contact me if you have questions!

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

Final figures for the 2019-2020 congressional cycle are now on the NARFE website. Ross Apter, NARFE political associate said, "NARFE-PAC established ambitious goals for the 2019-2020 cycle." Three of the 4 goals were exceeded as reflected in the below box!



2019-2020 NARFE-PAC Goals Summary

Raise \$1,750,000: **\$2,173,897.64**

Disburse \$1,250,000, political contributions: **\$1,436,000**

Send NARFE members to 110 local fundraisers: **111**

Grow monthly sustainer program by 20%: **10%**

Now – a new Congress, new 2-year cycle, so new goals. Also, **March is NARFE-PAC month!** Find details in the March *NARFE Magazine*. A contribution during PAC month would be a great way to begin this new cycle, whether as your annual contribution, an extra one, or by becoming a monthly sustainer. All contributors and contributions are appreciated. Thank you for the support.

Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams

On the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, at the "Programs" tab, there is a link to the free Washington State Alzheimer's Association's Educational Outreach Webinars for March and to the *ALZ* magazine. These are great resources! Questions? Please contact me.



Return Service Requested

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

FEBRUARY 19: NARFE TURNED 100!

A year-long centennial celebration has begun! There will be special events, digital resources and more.



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The chapter’s finances are holding steady at about \$17,500. I am working on better estimating the chapter’s budget for this year. And a reminder: when chapter membership declines, so do our finances.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of January 1, NARFE dues increased from \$40 to \$48 a year. So, members on dues withholding, for example, would have seen a change in their bank statements. Chapter dues remain at just \$10 a year.

Dues withholding also increased to \$42 a year. Retirees, and their spouses, and annuitant survivors, are eligible to enroll in dues withholding – “a payment method that gives NARFE members the option of having their annual dues [national and chapter] automatically deducted from their annuities on a monthly basis.” This is a way to “SAVE more than 10% on NARFE membership and NEVER send another dues payment again!” Personally, I am contacting retired members whose renewal is coming up shortly and inviting them to reconsider dues withholding!

Next, some Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 membership numbers! Between chapter (218) and area national-only (142) members, there were 360 NARFE members in mid-February. Interestingly, 19 former chapter members are now national-only members. Also, as recently as 2015, chapter membership alone was more than 300.

So, if you are a current federal employee (AFE) member, please encourage co-workers to join NARFE. Or, whether an AFE or retiree, consider a gift membership to a relative or friend, whether the individual is an AFE or retiree. Share your *NARFE Magazine*, or contact me if you need extra copies for potential members. Remember to include your membership number on a magazine label or application as the “recruiter ID!”

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Prior to our March and April meetings, our callers will call local members with a meeting reminder, including program information, and instructions for attending virtually. If you miss the call and want to attend, PLEASE return the call or contact me:

Darleen Wall, Ph: 509.586.8232;
Email: jdwall2@charter.net.



Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance for all of us to get our personal affairs in order. We just never know when it is going to be our time and our loved ones need to be prepared for the seemingly endless paperwork that follows. The pandemic has reinforced how important this is. So, please note VP Nancy’s article, page 2, regarding the NARFE F-100.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the January/February newsletter:

Condolences to: to the families of members Norma Paige and Dolores Rizzo who both passed away, and to member Jack Collins on the passing of his son Michael; condolences, too, to the families of former members Joe Kuhns (a past chapter president) and Emil Slatick who also recently passed away

Thinking of You/Get Well to members:

Lorie Bennett; Nancy Crosby; Terese Pratt
Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, einvlieger@aol.com.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

If you missed Jason Mercier’s state legislative presentation at the February meeting, it is on our chapter’s website at the “Programs” tab. Jason is the director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center. Also, watch for the April meeting program information. I’ll post that when the program selection is finalized.

