



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)

**Reminder! March 13, Daylight Saving Time begins. "Spring clocks forward" one hour!**

### 2022 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

<b>President,</b> Pat Turner	509.539.5659
<b>Vice President,</b> Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
<b>Secretary,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Treasurer,</b> Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer's,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator,</b> Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
<b>Legislative,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Membership,</b> Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC,</b> John Wetterling	509.545.8016
<b>Newsletter,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer,</b> Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
<b>Sunshine,</b> Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster,</b> 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 Planning for In-Person Meetings!**  
*Current plans are for in-person vs. virtual chapter meetings in March and April, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd. If that changes, members will receive updates 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).*

**March 2** – Presentation on the planned Franklin County Historical Museum 5,802-square-foot expansion

**Menu:** homestyle meat-loaf w/bacon, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, dessert



**April 6** – Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – updates on antiques.  
**Bring your questions, and items for appraisal (no weapons)!**  
**Menu:** fish and chips – cod bites w/French fries, salad, dessert



### **March – April, Volume 2022, Issue 2**

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

Welcome to spring and sunshine! Daylight hours have definitely increased since my last president's message! I am smiling!!



NARFE is now officially in its second century! MANY changes occurred during the first 100 years, including working through challenges during the last year-plus with COVID. Per Barb Sido, NARFE executive director, "... NARFE is now telework-friendly," so headquarters staff can even keep "everything humming along throughout," for example, "snowstorms and dig-outs!"

Per a recent article from Barb, NARFE's theme for 2022 is "The Next Century of Success." The focus will be on positioning NARFE "to be the premier source of federal benefits information and ever-vigilant advocates for your earned pay and benefits well into the future."

So, with your help we will remain a strong chapter and maintain, and hopefully grow, attendance at our chapter monthly lunch meetings, whether in-person or virtual. As COVID lingers, each month the chapter's board decides whether the chapter meeting will be in-person or virtual; but either way, we continue to have excellent programs! The board also continues to explore ways to keep members connected with information via Zoom or in-person meetings, the chapter newsletter and website, etc.

Thanks to Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor's ongoing efforts, we are continuing to recognize our "distinguished members," that is, those with 20 or more years of NARFE membership. Federation President Steve Roy recently recognized Mary Binder as a "stalwart NARFE member for 20 years, holding several positions at both the federation and chapter levels."

Steve also recently presented Johanna with a NARFE certificate for distinguished service. She volunteered to "scrub" the federation's national-only member list of about 2,300 names, looking for members who should be recognized as distinguished members. She also found names of deceased members. Thank you, Johanna!

In conclusion, please be safe, healthy, and stay positive!

## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Spring is just around the corner! Are you looking forward to seeing it arrive as much as I am?

Due to ongoing COVID concerns, the chapter held its January and February meetings virtually. For the February meeting, I expanded my electronic notifications for the Zoom meeting to all chapter members who have current email addresses on file. To be honest, I was disappointed in the attendance and wonder – did you or did not receive your invitation to join us virtually?

We may have to continue holding virtual meetings at times but our goal is to get together in person in March and beyond. Some of our members do not have email addresses or choose to not receive emails. However, if you have an email address but have not been receiving my electronic notifications about virtual meetings and want to be included, please let me know. (See contact information below.) Note: You need internet access to view the meetings, but can call in and listen to them if you do not have the access and/or a camera on your device.



For local members who are on the active caller list to receive calls about our meetings, your caller will let you know if we are meeting in person at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center or meeting virtually. If we have to meet virtually, I will email the invitation to join virtually a week prior to the meeting date, which is the first Wednesday of the month starting at 11:30 a.m. (Reminders! No July or August meetings. Meeting lunch menus and programs are posted on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), and in the chapter newsletters.)



If you need help logging on to our virtual meetings, I am happy to help you. Email me at [ncrosby2b@charter.net](mailto:ncrosby2b@charter.net), or call me at 509.735.3288. If calling, please leave a message and I will return your call.

## Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

First, a reminder! If you are eligible for Medicare Part B reimbursement from your FEHB plan, you do not need to wait until the end of 2022 to file. You can be partially reimbursed after your Medicare has been deducted, until you reach the maximum payable to you.

Looking ahead, the March and April NARFE webinars pertain to current employees who will soon be retiring:

- ♦ “It’s Not Magic: Target Your Best Retirement Date,” Tuesday, March 15, 2:00 p.m., ET.
- ♦ “Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors and How to Avoid Them,” April 6, 2:00 p.m., ET.

These webinars, and archived past webinars, are FREE for current NARFE members. If you know someone who

is considering retiring or may soon be retiring, and who is not a NARFE member, they can register for these NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars for a non-member fee of \$48, which includes a one-year NARFE membership.

If you have questions or need assistance in locating any of the above information, please contact me at [ejleee22@charter.net](mailto:ejleee22@charter.net), or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message and I will return your call!)

## WSF President – Steve Roy

The Federation Advisory Committee – the WSF elected officers, and our appointed chairmen and coordinators – had a virtual meeting February 8. The meeting was open to all WSF members, whether chapter or national-only, and we had a few attend. Minutes and meeting reports will be posted on the federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). A few highlights and reminders:



- ♦ The 2021 *The Federation Reporter*, the federation’s newsletter, is posted on the federation website. It provides a good federation overview, including its structure and who does what.
- ♦ Former Region IX VP Rich Wilson’s name has officially been added to the Silver Circle Wall of Fame at NARFE headquarters. Rich passed away September 7. More than \$1,900 was raised in his memory. For more details on the Silver Circle program, see page 44, January/February 2022 *NARFE Magazine*.
- ♦ Mark your calendars for August 21-23. NARFE is moving forward with plans for **FEDcon22**, to be an in-person national conference at the Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz. Registration information and other conference details will be on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), and in future *NARFE Magazines*.
- ♦ Our WSF conference will be virtual, October 9-12. Times and agenda are being developed. Watch for updates in this chapter newsletter, on the WSF website and in electronic notices for those with an email address with NARFE and who receive notices.
- ♦ WSF Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett reported donations are “sparse to nil.” Please consider a donation. Thank you.

On a sad note, we recently lost 2 very special WSF members. Jean Ross, wife of Lanny Ross, former Region IX VP, passed away January 12, and Anne Kush, our recent past WSF treasurer, passed away January 19. Both were incredible people who made a difference, and will long be remembered, including in our NARFE community.

Condolences to their families and friends.

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

Final reminder! For members who have a family member graduating high school this year and who will be attending college next fall, the application and instructions for the 2022



NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program are available at [www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/). Applications are due by Thursday, March 24, 3 PM, EDT. The essay question for this year's application is: *What idea or issue are you most passionate about right now and why does it interest you?* (Max number of words is 500.)



The spring Senior Times Expo will be Tuesday, April 19, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick. Time to be determined. This is scheduled to be an in-person vs. drive-thru event, and our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is planning to have a booth. Per the event organizers, "Over 700 seniors along with family, friends and caregivers attended our last in-person expo and we anticipate as many or more visiting in April ..." Watch for details in area publications and on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). There will also be updates at the March and April chapter meetings.

## Legislative – Mary Binder

Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, updated members at the February chapter meeting on what is happening in Olympia during this legislative session. His presentation slides are available under "Programs" on our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). This is a short, 60-day session, scheduled to end March 10.



NARFE's January/February *NARFE Magazine* action alert asked members to "... use NARFE's Legislative Action Center, located at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), to send a personalized message to your representative urging him or her to cosponsor the Equal COLA Act (H.R. 304)." As explained in the alert, "Current law unfairly reduces FERS COLAs and fails to protect the earned value of FERS annuities." To date, only Reps. Derek Kilmer (D-06) and Adam Smith (D-09) of Washington's 10 representatives have co-sponsored the bill. Please contact Rep. Dan Newhouse, (R-04), our representative, about co-sponsoring this bill.

NARFE is also closely watching the legislature's "continuing resolutions," which NARFE President

## 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

Ken Thomas wrote recently "are disruptive" to federal agencies, and the Postal Reform Act of 2022, which it now supports after it was amended to address NARFE concerns, particularly unintended increases to FEHB program premiums for federal employees and retirees.

## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 4th quarter PAC reports for the 2021/2022 cycle ending



December 31 are now on

the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). They reflect: the number of contributors; contributions by chapters, federations, regions; and disbursements to candidates, noncandidate committees and leadership PACs. The good news is members are still making contributions, and at a slightly higher average amount, and disbursements are being made. Worrisome news is overall contributions, number of contributors and, consequently, the amount distributed are down from the equivalent period in the 2019/2020 cycle. The primary reason is the drop in NARFE membership. For example, for the same period in the 2019/2020 cycle, our Chapter 1192 had 31 contributors. For the 2021/2022 cycle, we were down to only 18 contributors – a significant drop!

March is NARFE-PAC month – a great time to make a contribution, a special contribution, or become a sustainer. Watch for details in the March *NARFE Magazine*. I am hoping for improved figures for the 5th quarter!

"NARFE-PAC established ambitious goals for the 2021/2022 cycle," wrote Seth Ikes, NARFE-PAC political associate, in his January PAC letter. Here is a summary of the progress:

- ◆ Raise \$1,850,000: **\$902,343**
- ◆ Disburse \$1,350,000 for political contributions: **\$559,500**
- ◆ Send NARFE members to 120 local fundraisers: **52.**

**Return Service Requested**

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

**TO:**

**Reminder for April 6 Chapter Meeting!**  
Have items you want appraised?  
Have questions about "old stuff?"  
Bring them, except weapons, to help make the program interesting and informative!

**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

The chapter started 2021 with \$17,475.72 and ended the year with \$17,507.52, so a slight increase. The chapter's 2022 budget is patterned after last year's.



The chapter board recently learned some NARFE chapters charge members for printed/mailed newsletters. Thus far, the board has budgeted for these costs; however, for members receiving mailed newsletters, please consider receiving your copy electronically to save the chapter money. Thank you.

**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

First, a special welcome to Trevor Abbott, a new "out-of-state" chapter member, and current federal employee, in Los Molinos, Calif.

As of mid-February, the NARFE database showed we had 208 chapter members and 135 area national-only members, for a total of 343 – down 3 members from my report in the previous newsletter.

A reminder! Think about a one-year gift membership – maybe to a relative working for the federal government. For NARFE members who are current federal employees, encourage your co-workers to join NARFE, maybe also share your *NARFE Magazine*. Need an extra magazine and/or have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com). Note – to get credit for being a recruiter, ensure you put your NARFE member number on membership application forms, a magazine label, etc.



**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

*(Since the January/February newsletter)*

**Condolences to chapter members:**

Dan Baker on the loss of his wife, Patricia; Judy Hames on the loss of her husband Dick; Pam Murray on the loss of

**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

Our chapter callers make tremendous efforts to notify local members about upcoming meetings. When they leave a message, PLEASE return their calls so we know you have been notified. If you prefer a text message, or not being called each month, please contact me. Thank you, and if you have suggestions for our calling system, please let me know!



**Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765;**  
**Email: [jdwall2@centurylink.net](mailto:jdwall2@centurylink.net)**

her significant other, Tom Brown, a chapter member and Walla Walla Chapter 237 president

**Condolences also to:** Lanny Ross, past Region IX VP on the loss of his wife Jean; Lou Kush, past WSF legislative chairman on the loss of his wife Anne, past WSF treasurer

**Thinking of You/Get Well to members:** Lorie Bennett; Bill Hoyt; Scotty Kruschke; Joe Wall, husband of member Darleen Wall; Judy Zachary

**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).**

**Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams**



Looking ahead ... 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](http://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 the registration/donation page.

**Webmaster – Larry Williams**

Reminders! Meeting programs, lunch menus, etc., are on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Federation information is at [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).

