



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

From the March NARFE Magazine: 2023 (Virtual) Legislative Training Conference, June 20-22.

2023 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: \$25; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian/special meals available, if ordered ahead)

Avoid a charge! Cancel reservations you can't keep!

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Programs

March 1 – Cynthia MacFarlan, founder/executive director, Therapeutic Riding of Tri-Cities, will provide a presentation on TROT – its mission and services.



Menu: soup or stew w/sandwich, salad, dessert



**March 12
Daylight Saving Time Begins
"Spring" Clocks
Forward**

April 5 – Chapter members continue to request to have more Alzheimer's information. So, Joel Loiacono, regional director, Eastern Washington/North Idaho, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled to provide **ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**® an update on Alzheimer's and dementia research.

Menu: fresh cod bites, French fries, tartar sauce, salad, dessert

March – April, Volume 2023, Issue 2

Chapter President – Pat Turner

NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is on a positive success path. For example, last year our chapter recruited 10 new members! I would like to extend a special welcome to them and thank all our dedicated members who continually work to spread the word about NARFE and our chapter.



It has been great to reconnect with retired former co-workers, meet current employees and welcome newcomers to our region. Our Chapter 1192 is one of the most viable in the NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF). Our members and leaders over the years have helped ensure our chapter's success.

Also to note – the WSF provides \$25 to the chapter for each new member it recruits during the year, which does help the budget! Our NARFE WSF leaders recognize the work involved in recruiting and want to encourage chapters and their members to continue to do so.



Another chapter success story is attendance at our monthly luncheon meetings. This is so encouraging! The chapter's officers and coordinators are working to keep meetings informative but short, to have informative and interesting programs, and to have time to meet and greet attendees. Please continue to provide your officers and coordinators ideas and suggestions!

In the legislative arena, with a new U.S. Congress and the Washington state legislature in session, bills are being introduced and re-introduced. So, it is a busy time at both the federal and state levels, and definitely time for us to be engaged with our elected officials. See Legislative Coordinator Mary Binder's article, page 3, for information on staying engaged.

MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH!

March is NARFE-PAC month. PAC is a vital part of our NARFE advocacy program. The voice of thousands has an impact with our legislators. More details on page 3.

Until the next newsletter, let's count our blessings for America as we await a new spring season.

Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Our Chapter 1192 has been very fortunate, especially in the past year as President Pat highlighted in her article, to have several new members! Some have been recruited by friends, others through chapter “outreach” efforts such as the Senior Times Expos, health fairs, federal-related organization meetings. Let’s keep this momentum going!



Consider inviting co-workers, former co-workers and spouses for a visit to a chapter meeting. As I believe most members know, a large number of NARFE chapters, including several of our Washington state chapters, have closed in the past few years or are in the process of closing. The primary reasons have been lack of leadership and/or member participation. Let’s not let that happen to our Tri-Cities chapter.

Speaking of new members, please introduce yourself to new members and welcome them by sitting with them at chapter meetings. We have a variety of federal agencies represented and it is always interesting to learn about their federal experiences.

Further, all members are invited to attend our Zoom board meetings. This is an excellent way to better understand our chapter and to offer suggestions on how we can improve all our meetings. Contact me at ncrosby2b@charter.net, if you want to be “invited.”

Chapter officer elections will be in the fall. Current officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer) are either serving their second, 2-year consecutive term or are continuing to serve as there was not a replacement candidate at the last election. So, I encourage you to learn more about the positions and responsibilities, and then step up and volunteer to serve.

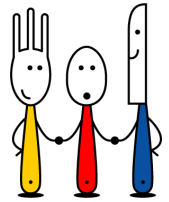


Finally, prior to the COVID disruption, our chapter periodically had “group outings” as a way to further get to know members while learning and having some fun. Examples of past outings include: attending Dust Devils baseball games; touring the Coyote Canyon Mammoth dig site; visiting the McNary National Wildlife Refuge; and touring the LIGO Exploration Center at Hanford. Besides these type outings, we also try to have interesting chapter meeting programs. We welcome suggestions for outings, and presenters and program topics for our chapter meetings!

Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

A reminder! The Red Lion Hotel Kennewick catering requires a meal count Monday mornings before our Wednesday meetings and we must pay for that count.

If you make a reservation and don’t show, you are still responsible to pay. If you are not able to confirm a reservation with a caller or need to cancel, please call me by Sunday evening prior to our meeting. [Call 509.735.3288 and leave a message.] Note – to avoid hotel room and equipment charges, there is a minimum number of lunches we must order.



Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

NARFE’s Federal Benefits Institute is a great free member resource! If you have a specific question or issue about annuities, insurance, Medicare, Social Security, etc., whether as an employee or retiree, you can email, call or fax your question or issue. The Institute staff is very responsive and helpful.



Then, too, the Institute’s webinars are a great resource. You can view them live or watch them at your leisure as they are archived. They are free to members. Upcoming: March 14, 2 p.m., ET: “How to Prepare for Long-Term Care: Aging Gracefully While Financially Secure.”

Informational note: **OPM** randomly requests a notarized verification/proof of life from federal annuitants (age 90 and over) receiving annuities to help protect the integrity of payments. If you receive such a request from OPM-RES Fraud Branch, Washington, D.C., please **DO NOT IGNORE IT**. Your annuity could be suspended if you do.

If you have general questions or need assistance, including for the new OPM or TSP login processes, please email me at ejleee22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message; your call will be returned.)

WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

It has been a busy winter for the WSF (Washington State Federation) elected officers and appointed coordinators. Between virtual meetings, several in-person visits at chapter meetings, emails, phone conversations, etc., leaders are learning more about NARFE and our WSF, operations and policies and procedures are being reviewed, etc., all with a goal of keeping our federation alive and vibrant.



But, these are challenging times, including at NARFE headquarters as there are currently several position vacancies. An example – processing chapter closure paperwork is on hold due to a vacancy. Locally, this has affected closing Wenatchee Chapter 239 and Yakima Chapter 238. As I previously wrote, the GOOD NEWS is – MOST chapter members are keeping their NARFE membership. This is key to NARFE’s future!

Public Relations – Mary Binder

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, last year was a good “outreach” year for the chapter that resulted in several new members. These public relations and membership efforts also provided more visibility with several local organizations who are recognizing NARFE as a go-to resource. So, Service Officer Ellen LeVee and I have worked on an “outreach” initiative to provide NARFE information to area care facilities, retirement centers, etc. A goal is to ensure staff at these facilities have, at a minimum, federal “who-to-contact” information at their fingertips should they need it for residents and/or family members. An example that often comes up – who to contact should a death occur. We’ll provide updates on this initiative in future newsletters and at chapter meetings.

Other upcoming events and reminders:

- ◆ Applications for the 2023/2024 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program are at www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships. (Note: the program is for high school seniors related to NARFE members and who plan to attend college in 2023.) Application deadline is March 16, 3 p.m., ET.
- ◆ Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, April 18, (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. With more than 80 vendors again expected, it is a great FREE opportunity for those 55/older to talk to representatives from “local businesses and agencies with booths geared toward active and retired seniors.” (Note! Our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 will again have a booth at the Expo. Volunteers needed. Contact me for more information.)
- ◆ Further ahead, the fall Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, October 17! Same details as above.



Legislative – Mary Binder

Well, the 2023/2024, 118th Congress, did convene in January but only after an “interesting” U.S. House of Representatives civics lesson for those following the Speaker-of-the-House selection process. Yes, it was educational.

So now with Congress in session, here are some reminders and/or information you may find helpful:

- ◆ NARFE *Newsline* – “A weekly newsletter that goes out to NARFE members on Tuesdays and includes weekly recaps of legislative news, compiled by NARFE’s advocacy and communications teams.”
- ◆ NARFE Legislative Action Center – “A one-stop site to send a letter to Congress, and more.” Go to www.narfe.org, and then to “Advocacy.”
- ◆ NARFE Bill Tracker – The first edition for the 118th

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

Congress is scheduled to be in the March *NARFE Magazine*. From NARFE, “Bills from the previous Congress that were not enacted must be reintroduced and given a new bill number ... NARFE will use the Bill Tracker to provide monthly updates on legislation important to the federal community throughout the 118th Congress.” An example of a reintroduced bill is the Equal COLA Act.

- ◆ Finally, yes, staying engaged with our elected officials is and will continue to be as important as ever!

The state’s 2023 legislative session began January 9. It is currently scheduled to end April 24. Jason Mercier from the Washington Policy Center provided an overview at the February chapter meeting. Missed his presentation? There is a summary in the meeting minutes on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. Also from Jason, 2 websites that may be helpful: for tracking bills, www.leg.wa.gov; and, for tracking “every cent the state is spending,” www.fiscal.wa.gov.



NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH – a perfect time to support NARFE’s “political action committee.” Members are encouraged to participate with a contribution, or an extra one. There are several ways to do so. Examples:

- ◆ At a chapter meeting;
- ◆ Online at www.narfe.org/narfe-pac;
- ◆ The contribution form in a *NARFE Magazine*;
- ◆ Becoming a monthly sustainer through a withholding from your annuity or by using a credit card. Details are at www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer.

Learn more about NARFE-PAC on the NARFE website under “Advocacy” or at the chapter meetings PAC table.

NARFE-PAC

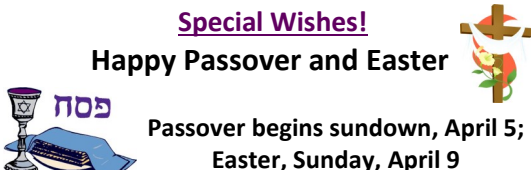
Return Service Requested

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

TO:

Special Wishes!

Happy Passover and Easter



Passover begins sundown, April 5;
Easter, Sunday, April 9

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At the February chapter meeting, I reported the chapter had \$13,075.48 in savings and \$2,546.52 in checking for a total of \$15,622.00. In addition, I am working to have the 2022 chapter financial audit completed; and the required annual IRS 990-F form for our chapter’s non-profit status has been filed.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Spring is almost here. Returning snow-birds ... and all members ... please ensure your contact information such as mailing address, telephone number or email address, is up to date. Need assistance? I can help.



As of February 17, we have 216 chapter members, 140 national-only members, for a total of 356. This is down slightly from my last report despite a new member and 2 transfers into the chapter as 2 members have passed away, 2 members dropped their membership and a member transferred out.

2023 new member: Frank Connor, a federal employee

2023 transfers-in: J.J. Dipple and Debbie Carlson

Dues withholding: More than 100 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 are not enrolled and want more information or assistance to enroll, I can help you.

Call/email me: 509.375.0739; annahojx2@gmail.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the January/February newsletter)

Condolences to: Dixie Fuzak, wife of member, William Fuzak; Judy Rhoades, wife of member, Jack Rhoades

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Our callers really work hard contacting members for upcoming meetings. When our callers leave a message, PLEASE return their calls so we can ensure you have been notified. If your phone does not have a recording device for messages, PLEASE contact me to arrange for alternate meeting notifications. Additionally, if you would prefer a text message or email rather than a call, or prefer not being called each month, PLEASE contact me.

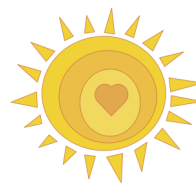


THANK YOU FOR THE CALL!

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

Thinking of you to members:

Robert Larson, Ruby Ulseth, Ray White
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 scheduled for Saturday, October 14 ... a change from a Sunday event. The chapter will again have a team. I have enrolled as the captain. Hope you can join our team! More details in coming months!



Webmaster – Larry Williams

There have been updates to the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. Check it out. Forgot a meeting date, program or lunch menu? The website has the information! Also remember, the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, has a wealth of federation current and historical information!

