



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192 NARFE NEWS

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

NARFE: www.narfe.org Washington Federation: www.narfe.org/wa/ Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Announcements! Daylight Saving Time begins March 9; Tax Day and Senior Times Expo, April 15!

2025 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Vice President, Mary Binder	509.378.2494
Secretary, Debbie Carlson	509.380.7210
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	623.556.0869
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
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., CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meetings are virtual; days/times vary.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March 5 – Matt Murphy, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, government/regional affairs director, is scheduled to provide a 2025 state legislative session update.



Menu: "blonde" lasagna, roasted veggies, garlic bread, salad, dessert

April 2 – Brandy Hickey, director, Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels, is scheduled to provide an overview of this area's program.

Menu: herb-crusted chicken (GF), roasted red potatoes, salad, dessert



*For Chapter and National-Only Members
Outside the Tri-Cities Area!*

You are MOST WELCOME to attend a chapter meeting, including lunch! A RESERVATION IS NEEDED. Please call Nancy Crosby or Darleen Wall by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

March – April, Volume 2025, Issue 2

President – Nancy Crosby

Well, January and February only brought a bit of winter cold and snow! We are fortunate compared with other areas of the country.



Reflecting on this, something to consider – helping federal employees/their families who have been affected by disasters such as last fall's hurricanes, the recent fires in California and now the flooding in several areas of the country.



FEEA offers "Disaster Relief Grants" that help "feds cover the costs of temporary lodging, critical home repairs and replacement mattresses." For more details, go to the FEEA website, <https://www.feea.org>, "Our Programs" and "Disaster Relief." The website also has a "Donate" tab.

MUCH is happening to and changing for many current federal employees, and for some retirees. NARFE's advocacy staff is working tirelessly to provide updates on its website, www.narfe.org. For those affected by the repeal of the GPO/WEP through the Social Security Fairness Act, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is providing updates on its website, <https://www.ssa.gov>. Also, a REMINDER! Ensure your personal information is up to date on both the SSA and OPM websites!

At the February chapter meeting, I reported that at the November chapter meeting we will elect new chapter officers – president, vice president, secretary, treasurer – for 2026/2027. I will be chairing a nominating committee and need volunteers to assist me in reaching out to our members to encourage them to consider an elected, or an appointed coordinator position. To note, our current coordinator positions are for: Alzheimer's; the callers; hospitality; legislation (federal and state); membership; newsletter; outreach/public relations; programs/special events; service officer; webmaster. At chapter meetings and in newsletters, we will list the major responsibilities of these elected and appointed positions. (See page 2 for president and vice president responsibilities.) ***Our chapter's continued success depends on members stepping up and filling leadership positions.***



(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Chapter President Duties

(NARFE Chapter and Federation Officers Manual, F-10)

- ◆ Presides at chapter and executive committee meetings, conducting business in an orderly, impartial manner.
- ◆ Ensures at least a portion of chapter meetings focuses on NARFE’s mission.
- ◆ Is familiar with NARFE’s organization structure, national bylaws, the chapter and federation bylaws, policies and procedures at all levels and *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- ◆ Appoints standing and special committees, as needed.
- ◆ Working with the treasurer, ensures the IRS Form 990N (e-postcard) is filed electronically annually by May 15.
- ◆ Ensures officers/coordinators have the appropriate information to fulfill the duties of their position and follows up to ensure they are operating effectively.

Other duties as needed or requested:

- ◆ Prepares and distributes meeting agendas.
- ◆ Represents the chapter within the Washington State Federation and Region IX.

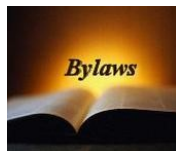
Speaking of stepping up, a special thank you to member Laney Kruschke for volunteering to coordinate a chapter group activity – attending a Dust Devils baseball game Saturday, May 31, with “Bully Pen” seating and a BBQ. We need 25 attendees to cover the cost, which is \$30/ per person. Cost is payable to Laney as he had to prepay for the reservation. There will be a sign-up sheet at future chapter meetings.



Lastly, a “hospitality” update. At our February chapter meeting, we had a baked potato buffet. The meal was good, and a show of hands approved a buffet from time to time. While it did extend our meeting time about 20 minutes, we will look at options for trying another buffet and reducing the extra time we experienced.

Vice President – Mary Binder

Following on President Nancy’s article, below is a summary of a chapter vice president’s duties.



Work on revising the chapter’s bylaws continues. Slow progress, but progress.

Chapter Vice President Duties

(NARFE Chapter and Federation Officers Manual, F-10)

- ◆ Presides at chapter and executive committee meetings in the absence of the president.
- ◆ May be appointed or elected to oversee specific areas of responsibility, such as legislation or membership.

Other duties as needed or requested. For Chapter 1192, this has varied based on chapter needs and a VP’s skill set.

Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

The January issues of the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and its *Senior Times* had an article titled “A look back at notable business, civic leaders we lost in 2024.” Our past chapter president, Patricia Turner, was listed with other “prominent business and community leaders.” (She passed away December 19, 2023.) To note, Pat worked at Hanford for 69 years. She was Woman of the Year, Kennewick, in 1978. The article also said, “She was a past president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Tri-Cities Chapter 1192.” She gave so much to so many, including our chapter. We are grateful for her, and her time with us.



Yes, we are in uncertain times in the federal arena. This is surfacing many concerns and questions. Between myself, VP Mary Binder, and Ellen Le Vee, chapter member and retired federal benefits specialist, we have been receiving queries from both chapter members and non-members who are federal employees or retirees. We expect to continue to be busy as uncertain times continue. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions and/or refer individuals to us if you think we can assist them.



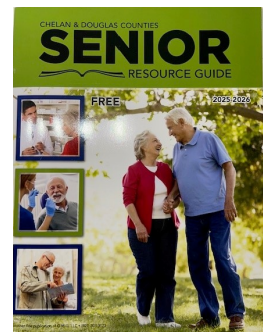
And, a reminder – NARFE’s Federal Benefits Institute has webinars that are FREE for members! Past webinars are available on-demand, including the Q&A sessions. The 3 recent webinars listed below covered current issues. If you missed them, they are available on-demand.

- ◆ Advocacy Priorities Amid Emerging Threats and Historic Success.
- ◆ Stay or Go: Considering the “Deferred Resignation” Offer, Retirement Options, and Potential Options.
- ◆ Know Your Rights and Obligations Following Trump Executive Orders.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

As I announced in the January/February chapter newsletter, there is a chapter ad in the *Tri-Cities Senior Resource Guide*! These **free guides** are at chapter meetings and other locations throughout the Tri-Cities region.

For our members in the Wenatchee area, a guide was recently released for “Chelan & Douglas Counties!” It, too, has a NARFE/Chapter 1192 ad. (See page 9) If you cannot find one locally, please contact me and I’ll get a copy to you. Still to come in 2025 for our members in the Moses Lake and Yakima areas, similar guides for you! And, for Walla Walla area members, no guide yet, per the publisher.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

With spring approaching, our winter hiatus from being out and about is ending. Spring, summer and fall have become our busy “outreach” months as we work to have a NARFE presence at community and areawide events. My overall goal remains the same for this year – to increase the number of events we support.

At its January 27 meeting, the chapter board approved supporting the following:

- ♦ **April 15** – Spring Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick;
- ♦ **September 18** – 20th Annual All Community Senior Picnic, HAPO Center, Richland;
- ♦ **October 4** – Walk to End Alzheimer’s, John Dam Plaza, Richland (*More details on page 4.*);
- ♦ **October 14** – Fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. –2 p.m. Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick;
- ♦ **November 14** – Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick, 9 a.m. –3 p.m.;
- ♦ **November 15** – staffing the coat check at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival;
- ♦ **Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce** – renewing our Chamber membership.

To note – the above list represents known events with dates. We are working to get details on other potential opportunities. Stay tuned, and **if you are interested/can help at any of these events, please let me know.** Thank you for the support.

Final reminder! March 13, application deadline, 2025 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship



Program (*for high school seniors, related to NARFE members, planning to attend college in 2025*).

Go to: www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships.

Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

To say the least, we are in the midst of changing times for the federal government and community. Trying to stay abreast of what has, is and will be happening is challenging! As President Nancy wrote in her article, page 1, “NARFE’s advocacy staff is working tirelessly to provide updates on its website.” I strongly recommend members check it frequently besides receiving NARFE’s frequent electronic updates.



For example, the dropdown menu under the “Advocacy” tab on the NARFE website has important fact sheets, issue briefs and talking points on a variety of topics important to current and retired federal employees. Two fact sheets to note are: “Threats to Federal Employee/Retiree Benefits” and “NARFE’s Advocacy Priorities for the 119th Congress (2025-2026).”

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

So, with all that is happening, it is more important than ever to stay actively engaged with our elected officials! A key tool for NARFE to do this is its NARFE-PAC. “The PAC works for you by building strong relationships with lawmakers and providing NARFE with additional opportunities to share our most pressing concerns,” per information on the NARFE website. Further, “NARFE-PAC 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.”

MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH!

While contributions are welcome any time, during March there is particular emphasis on NARFE-PAC. You will find information in the March NARFE Magazine, on the NARFE website, and in electronic updates throughout the month. To note, NARFE Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) has a long history of strong support to NARFE-PAC! For example, for many years, the region has led NARFE’s 10 regions in “mean average.” So, please consider a contribution, or an extra one, in March. You can do so online via the NARFE website or through the form in the March magazine. Thank you!

Looking ahead – the dates for **LEGcon25** are June 9-11. This is NARFE’s biennial legislative training conference. It is held during the early months of a 2-year congressional cycle. The event will be virtual so the only cost will be registration, which is still to be determined. (*Note: the Washington State Federation and the chapter are exploring covering this cost for members who attend.*) Watch for updates in future NARFE magazines, electronically, or go to the NARFE website. After logging in, go to the News & Events tab, then NARFE Events. Scroll down to **LEGcon25** and click the “Learn more” link.

Return Service Requested

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

TO:

REMINDER!
The Washington State Department of Revenue has millions of \$\$\$ in unclaimed property! Go to claimyourcash.org for info.

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

We have an approved 2025 budget as of the January 27 chapter board meeting. This “working document” is similar to last year’s. I will provide updates at chapter meetings and the board will review it throughout the year. Contact me if you want a copy.



At the February 5 chapter meeting, I reported the chapter had \$20,945.00 in its Gesa accounts, up slightly from January. So, the chapter’s finances remain solid.

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Recruiting: As of February 15, our Tri-Cities chapter had **473** members – **220**/chapter; **253**/national-only in the chapter area. Our numbers remain steady.

Welcome new 2025 chapter members: Janet Ente; Terri Hale; Kristen Hill; Jeffrey Sedgwick; Russell Warren

New chapter member recap, 2024: The chapter recently received credit for recruiting these 11 new chapter members in 2024: John Brimhall; Rebecca Burghart; Virginia Coffman; Jack Heffling; Alicia Mercado; Sharon Mitchell; Myrna Partida; Elin Pierce; Ed Revell; Daniel Snook; Erika Villasante. Welcome to all!

NOTE! The federation gives chapters \$25 for each new chapter member recruited in a calendar year. The chapter received \$275 for 2024.

Dues withholding: Only \$4.33/month. SEND NO MONEY! SAVE MONEY! No more renewal worries.

Snowbirds: A reminder! Keep us posted on contact information changes, even if temporary!

Contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739;
Email: annahojx2@gmail.com.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

See something needing updating on our chapter website, www.narfe1192.org? Have other suggestions? Let me know. Thank you.

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATES!

Our Chapter 1192 is the only one in the Washington State Federation that calls local members each month before a meeting! We believe this helps us stay better connected with our members.



PLEASE help our callers! Return their messages so we know you have been notified. No longer want to be called? Want a text or email instead? Have other feedback? Let me know. Thank you.

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

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the January/February newsletter)

Members Passing: Cora Baldwin; Paul Dunigan; John Slaughter;

Condolences to: Linda Jarnigan, former member, on the passing of her husband, Ron; Mable Rutt, member, on the passing of her son, Matthew



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

Upcoming events, below; more details in coming months:

- ♦ **October 4**, annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, John Dam Plaza, Richland. The chapter’s team is registered and we’ll again have a NARFE table. To register with our team and/or to donate, go to www.alz.org/walk. Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in “Team Name” box. Hope you can join us!
- ♦ **November 5**, annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser for the Alzheimer’s Research Fund.
- ♦ **November 15**, the Tri-Cities Wine Festival. The chapter will again staff the coat check. Volunteers needed!

