



Reminder! Region IX Training Conference, May 17-18. See Page 2.

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.net Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

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March – May, Volume 2019, Issue 2

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Greetings! I hope all of you have been doing OK with the winter snow – whether plowing, shoveling or having help doing so. It has been heartwarming to read about and see so many Tricitians helping others with their driveways and sidewalks. Yes, we live in a great community.



Due to weather and safety concerns, we cancelled the February chapter meeting. So, we’ll be celebrating both Valentine’s Day and St. Patrick’s Day in March! Hope you can join us as there is much happening in our world!

Whether through the weeks of the partial government shutdown and its impacts on the federal community or working with Congress on a 1.9 percent pay raise for current employees, NARFE has been working tirelessly on everything from providing information and assistance to furloughed employees to working with legislators on Capitol Hill to doing media interviews. Much of this is covered in the monthly *narfe* magazines along with the electronic updates NARFE provides.

So, with this in mind, there are 2 important events coming up. First, March 10-13, the NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C. You can read more about **LEGcon19** on page 2, on the NARFE website and in the *narfe* magazines. Three of our chapter members are scheduled to attend and will be providing a summary at our April chapter meeting. With all that has been happening in Washington, D.C., this should be a very interesting conference.

Then May 17-18, our 4th Region IX Training Conference at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about what NARFE is doing for us, including an update from Jessica Klement, NARFE’s legislative director. Read more about this on page 2.

Yes, much coming up in the next few months ... including spring! Meanwhile, stay warm, dry and safe, and of course, drive safely. **6124**



CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Lunch: \$18; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

March 6 – Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center – update on state legislative session.

Food Drive! Bring nonperishable food, cash or check!

Menu: grilled chicken breast, roasted tomato/veggie couscous, green beans, dessert



April 3 – Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers – updates on antiques.

Bring items for appraisal (no weapons).

Menu: beef & broccoli w/teriyaki sauce, rice, dessert



May 1 – Michele Gerber, WA Recovery Alliance/Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition – will discuss the coalition and addiction in the Tri-Cities.

Menu: chicken/bacon/avocado club sandwich w/fries or chips, dessert



WSF President – Nancy Crosby

As President Lorie wrote in her article, page 1, NARFE's legislative conference, **LEGcon19**, is March 10-13 in Washington, D.C. Currently, 9 Washington State Federation (WSF) members are scheduled to attend, including 3 from the Tri-Cities chapter – Mary Binder, Pat Turner and me. The federation board has approved a \$250 “scholarship” for any federation member in good standing to attend the conference.



Besides several guest speakers and workshops, conference attendees will have the opportunity to be on Capitol Hill to meet with our senators and representatives. For example, Mary and Pat are scheduled to meet with Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) on March 13. These meetings with our elected officials are a time for NARFE members to share with them the concerns of both current and retired federal employees. We'll provide a summary at the April chapter meeting.

Then, looking to May, the 4th Region IX Training Conference, Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. This will be a great opportunity to not only learn more about NARFE and what it is doing now and planning for the future, but also to meet NARFE members from throughout our Region IX – members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon, besides from throughout Washington State.

The conference begins at 11:00 a.m. on the 17th with a lunch and ends at noon on the 18th. As President Lorie wrote, our keynote speaker will be Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director. Hearing from Jessica and getting her updates are a highlight of any NARFE conference! Besides Jessica we'll have other updates and presentations covering everything from the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program to NARFE-PAC to NARFE's branding initiative.



For Washington State NARFE members in good standing, there is no cost to attend the conference and Friday lunch. For guests who want to attend the conference and

lunch, the cost is \$50. Then, there is a banquet Friday evening. Cost is \$30 for both members and guests. [NOTE: As an incentive to attend the conference, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is covering the banquet cost for its chapter members.] Registration forms will be at chapter meetings and on the WSF website, www.narfewa.net, around March 1. Also, for those wanting to stay overnight, there is a group rate available from May 14-20 at the Marriott SpringHill Suites Kennewick Tri-Cities, which is attached to the convention center. More details about hotel reservations is on the registration form.

Again, the training conference will be a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE and to meet other state members as well as those from throughout our region. Hope to see you there!

The next WSF board meeting is scheduled for April 10, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. Federation members welcome!

WSF District V VP – Mary Binder

Besides the Tri-Cities chapter cancelling its February meeting due to weather issues, the Yakima chapter also cancelled its monthly meeting for the same reasons. In January, however, the Yakima chapter held its first meeting in its new location – Blossom Place, an Enlivant assisted living facility. The director, head nurse and marketing director all welcomed the NARFE members, provided coffee and doughnuts, and provided information about the facility and their positions. A very nice welcome to the chapter and its members. **5451**



(Photo from Blossom Place website.)

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Ever misplace the chapter newsletter and wonder about an upcoming meeting and/or lunch menu? A reminder! This information, and much more, is on the chapter's website: www.narfe1192.org.



NARFE WEBINARS

March 7 – TSP and You: Sound Savings Strategies
(Mark A. Keen, CFP®)

March 21 – Social Security: A Key Ingredient in Your Retirement
(Tammy Flanagan)

April 11 – Federal Benefits and Divorce
(James Marshall, Federal Benefits Institute)

All webinars are at 2 p.m., Eastern Time.
Past webinars are “on demand” at: www.narfe.org.



NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

While the recent partial government shutdown has ended, for many current employees and their families, government contractors, and many others, the impacts are still being felt. One lesson all of this has reaffirmed for me is the need for federal workers – active and retired – to pull together to better weather the storms that come our way. NARFE-PAC helps do this. **1181**

The need is never ending to support NARFE-PAC! The support not only helps serve as a “foot-in-the-door” for NARFE’s legislative staff who go to Capitol Hill and work with our elected officials and their staffs, but also to continue to support those elected officials and, down the road, candidates who support NARFE’s legislative agenda to protect our earned benefits. What better way to support NARFE-PAC than in March – NARFE-PAC month!

MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH!

Looking back, the 2017/2018 biennium NARFE-PAC cycle ended December 31 with the end of the 115th Congress. NARFE has posted the contribution and disbursement reports for the final quarter, October thru December, along with summary information for the 2-year cycle. So, for example, our Tri-Cities chapter members contributed \$4,436 – \$1,725 in 2017 and \$2,711 in 2018, a more than 55% increase last year! But, of the amount collected in 2018, only \$353 was at chapter meetings. The remainder, \$2,358, came from sustainers, individual contributions sent directly to NARFE, etc.



Our Tri-Cities chapter ranked 5th in the federation, behind the Bremerton, Vancouver, Seattle and Spokane chapters. **So, I have a 2019 goal – increase the amount collected at our chapter meetings and, hopefully, move us up in the ranking among our federation’s chapters.** Can you help me meet the goal?

Looking at the federation’s totals, for the 2-year cycle, the total contributed from all sources was \$53,963. Interestingly, however, more was contributed in 2017 than 2018, that is, \$27,905 vs. \$25,758.

Then, at the national level during the 2-year cycle, NARFE-PAC received \$1,895,908 of which \$874,417 came in 2017 and \$1,021,491 in 2018. NARFE’s 2-year goal was \$1.5 million. Yes, the goal was surpassed!

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
<http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>
825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Finally, regarding disbursements, Washington’s elected officials received \$42,500 – the 7th largest of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This reflects positively on our state’s U.S. elected officials and their support to NARFE’s legislative objectives. Further, all Washington candidates who asked for and received NARFE-PAC dollars won their elections except one.

As a reminder, both current elected officials running for re-election and candidates must ask for NARFE-PAC dollars and also have demonstrated through their voting record and interactions that they support NARFE’s legislative objectives. Candidates running for an office for the first time must complete a NARFE questionnaire regarding their views and support on NARFE issues. The maximum any elected official or candidate can receive is \$10,000.

Disbursements were as follows: Suzan DelBene (D-01), \$5,000; Rick Larsen (D-02), \$1,000; Candidate Carolyn Long (D-03), \$1,000 (She lost the election.); Dan Newhouse (R-04), \$6,000; Derek Kilmer (D-06), \$10,000; Pramila Jayapal (D-07), \$1,000; Dave Reichert (R-08), \$1,000 (Funds were disbursed before his announced retirement.); Candidate Kim Schrier (D-08), \$5,000; Adam Smith (D-09), \$2,500; and, Denny Heck (D-10), \$10,000.



Legislative Chairman – Mary Binder

Despite the February snow, I had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Dan Newhouse’s district director, Jamie Daniels, for about an hour Friday, February 8, in the congressman’s Richland office. While Ms. Daniels knew of NARFE, I highlighted for her NARFE’s history, mission and legislative agenda. Besides leaving her with several NARFE “white papers,” I also provided her several issues of the *narfe* magazine, and let her know that we were here to assist in anyway we could. She expressed appreciation for the information and offer to assist.



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

May 5-11, 2019



PUBLIC SERVICE
RECOGNITION WEEK

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Reinstated: Oneta Denson, Mable Rutt
Transferred Back to Chapter 1192:
Susan Bechtol

Reminders!

- ◆ NARFE has a newly revised membership renewal form. It went into effect with the February NARFE renewal notices. Hopefully, it will reduce and/or eliminate the confusion with the previous edition that resulted in many members nationwide unintentionally moving to national-only membership vs. remaining in their chapters.
- ◆ **Snowbirds ... save travels home! Watch the mountain passes.**
- ◆ **All members!** Let me know if your contact information changes! Thank you!!
- ◆ **Dues Withholding!** Retirees, save money! No renewal forms to worry about! Pay only \$44.04 vs. \$50 for annual national/chapter dues. This is \$3.67 in 12 equal payments deducted from your annuity. Questions? Contact me.

Hidden Numbers: January/February numbers belonged to: Bernard Ayers; Wu Chin; Jack Rhoades. Sorry! No winners. Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits of your NARFE membership number.** Find it, call me, 509.308.6664, or email me, annahojx2@gmail.com, and you, too, can win \$5!

Alzheimer’s Research – Larry Williams

The Alzheimer’s Association has a new lifestyle magazine, ALZ. Per a press release, the “new lifestyle magazine includes inspiring stories and tips for living a brain-healthy lifestyle. Go to: www.alz.org/news/alz-magazine.



2019 NARFE Photo Contest
August 1, 2018 – April 8, 2019
Theme: Living in the USA
Details at “Special Programs,”
www.narfe.org

Caller Coordinator – Darleen Wall

Help our callers! If you receive a message from one of our callers regarding attending a chapter meeting, please return the call. Also, if you want to attend a chapter meeting and did not receive a call, please call me at 509.586.8232.



Currently, we are looking for additional callers to contact fellow members regarding attending chapter meetings. If you can spare about an hour per month prior to the chapter meeting to make telephone calls, from your home or wherever you may be, we would love to have you participate in the “calling tree.” If you are interested and/or want more information, call me! Thank you for helping us to keep you informed!

2019 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards Program
Open to High School Seniors
10 winners; \$700 each
Application deadline: March 25, 3 p.m., ET
Details at “Special Programs,” www.narfe.org.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the January/February newsletter:
Condolences to: the family of former member Bill Hitt who passed; to member Edward Randklev on the passing of his wife, Patricia



Thinking of You: to Lorie Bennett, Sig Preston
Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Have extra cards, especially sympathy? Call me or email me: einvlieger@aol.com.

Public Relations/Editor – Mary Binder

The chapter’s board members discussed and voted to change the chapter newsletter from a bi-monthly to quarterly publication effective with this issue. Watch for the newsletters at the beginning of March, June, September and December! As always, please let me know if you have ideas and/or suggestions for the newsletter.