



Reminder: Region IX Leadership Training Workshop, May 31 – June 1

TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192 NARFE NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
“Advocates for Current and Former Federal Employees”

May – June, Volume 2013, Issue 3

2013 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Don Binder	509.585.1393
1st Vice President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
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Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Alzheimer’s, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.588.1393
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Service Center, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

Chapter E-mail: narfe1192@gmail.com

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Clearwater “C”
Lunch: \$14; reservations requested

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary

May 1 – Chapter meeting program:

State Rep. Larry Haler (tentative) is scheduled to provide an update on state legislative issues

Menu: Cheddar Chicken with Wild Rice

June 5 – Chapter meeting program:

Bruce Bjornstad – Ice Age Floods in the PNW: when, why and the impact

Menu: Barbecue Pork with Baked Beans

Reminder: No July or August chapter Meetings

MARCH TREASURER’S REPORT*

Balance forward, February 28	\$4,933.95
March income	\$ 517.26
March expenditures	\$1,189.00
Dedicated funds	\$1,688.00
Balance on hand, March 31	\$2,574.21

(*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter web site.)

SERVICE OFFICE

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137

Phone: 509.373.9536

Coordinator: 1st VP Lorie Bennett

REMINDERS!

Our chapter’s Service Office volunteers are **still hoping** many members will make at least one visit in 2013! Have you made yours?

Also, the Service Office **will be open** during the summer months and maintain the same hours.

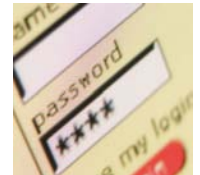


Contacts – if you are contacted by a member, the family member of a NARFE member, a prospective member, or anyone else, about NARFE, retirement or other benefits, etc., please let me know so I can record the information for our Service Office.

[Lorie Bennett: lorieb@clearwire.net.]

OPM “PINS” expire if not used in 15 months! Yes! OPM “Personal identification numbers” expire if not used within 15 months. For a new PIN number, call: 888-767-6738.

Suggestion: check the OPM web site, www.opm.gov, when we “spring forward” or “fall back!”



Member info – Having trouble accessing and/or have questions about your NARFE membership contact information? President Don Binder will have a computer at upcoming chapter meetings to assist members in checking their NARFE records. Can’t make a meeting and need help? Call Don.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Help me keep our contact information current. If you change your address, phone number, e-mail address, etc., please let me know.

[Ph: 509.492.4304; e-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net.]



Chapter President – Don Binder

Now that spring is here, and with much **outside** looking new and fresh – grass, leaves, flowers – the chapter executive board has been looking **inside** to “freshen up” the chapter bylaws. So, an update.

Our chapter bylaws were last updated in 2007. During the past year, both NARFE national’s and our Washington State federation’s bylaws have been updated. So, as a follow on, during the past few months the chapter’s executive board has been working on a review and update to our chapter’s bylaws. The updated draft bylaws will be at the June chapter meeting, enclosed or attached to the July/August newsletter, and posted on the chapter web site for members to review. We’ll **vote on the changes at the September 4 chapter meeting.**

First time you’ll have seen the bylaws? It may be because the current bylaws only require 60 days advance notice and then only a two-thirds vote to pass from members present at the chapter meeting following the notice period. Meetings typically have only 10-15% of the chapter’s members. Therefore, to be more fair, board members want to ensure all members have an opportunity to review and comment on the bylaws. So, a proposed change is to have bylaws changes published in the chapter newsletter and be posted on the chapter web site, besides having copies available at chapter meetings during the notification/comment period. While this change is not currently required, the board has opted to follow the proposed change for this revision.

Key proposed changes to note:

- (1) creating 2 new board positions, to be board selected. While serving, these members will not necessarily have other duties; but, being on the board will enable them to learn more about the chapter, federation and NARFE, in general. The thought is that this process will aid our chapter in developing future chapter leaders.
- (2) the president, 1st and 2nd vice presidents, secretary and treasurer, and the 2 additional board members serve for 2-year terms vs. 1 year as is presently the case; and, (3) board members may only serve in an office for 2, 2-year, consecutive terms.

There are other changes, including how delegates are selected for NARFE and federation conventions, and nominating committee selection procedures. Looking ahead, please review the draft when you receive it. Feel free to contact any board member if you have comments or questions.

More details in the July/August newsletter.



1st VP/Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

Looking back – the members/guests scheduled for the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler trip, April 24, were rescheduled for April 29 after the boat hit debris!

Now, looking ahead ...

May 11 – MCBONES Research Center Foundation visit to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth dig.

May 26 – Bus trip to Seattle for a Mariners baseball game.

June 15 – Dust Devils baseball game.

August 11 – Another bus trip to Seattle for a Mariners game.

October (Date TBD) – CREHST Tombstone Tales night walking trip in the old Richland cemetery.

Signup sheets for the events will be at chapter meetings, or you can contact me. Finally, **looking even further ahead**, if you have other ideas for activities, please let me know!



District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

A reminder! **Registrations are due May 10** for the first-ever Region IX Leadership

Training workshop, May 31 – June 1, in Ellensburg. While the workshop title has “leadership training,” a key focus is training and information for ALL NARFE members and spouses, especially newer members wanting to learn more about NARFE. The form and information are on the Washington State Federation of Chapters web site, www.narfewa.net. Copies will also be at the May chapter meeting. The chapter will reimburse members for the \$30 registration.

As your district VP, I have also visited the other two district chapters, Walla Walla and Yakima. I am encouraged with their recruiting efforts. And as with our Chapter 1192, the other two chapters are also updating their bylaws.

I hope to see many members at the training workshop! But for those I may not see in May or June at the chapter meetings or the training, I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Hospitality Chairman – Carl Gallion

I’ve been receiving feedback on our new 2013 lunch menus for our chapter meetings.

Thank you, and please continue to do so. It is important for my interface with the Red Lion’s catering staff. Again, this year’s focus is on more healthy, less carb-filled lunches. Thanks!



Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

I heard on the news recently that the Alzheimer's disease is the costliest disease in the country. This further emphasizes the importance of funding research for its prevention and treatment. To note, all our NARFE Alzheimer's contributions go toward this important research.



Therefore, if you can contribute to this worthwhile cause, please do so. As always, thank you for your support.

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Ongoing reminder! Newsletters and other chapter information is available on our web site, www.narfe1192.org. Have you checked it recently? Are you familiar with what is there? Consider checking it out! Also, if you have suggestions regarding the web site, please let me know.



Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

As Congress deals with two very different budgets approved by the respective House and Senate budget committees, sequestration remains with us. For example, currently Air Traffic Controllers are being furloughed, affecting not only them but the public. How long the House, Senate, and the President, will take to resolve the ongoing fiscal issues remains the \$64,000 question!

Congress did approve and send to the President a bill permitting selected agencies greater flexibility to move funds between appropriations controlled by the respective executive branch department. An example – this permitted the Defense Department to reduce the number of furlough days from 22 to 14; and as we go to press, additional research is ongoing to see if those days could be reduced even further.

In that same bill, however, there was also bad news. The pay freeze for current federal employees has been extended until the end of the calendar year 6248, which will mean a total of 3 years.

At this time, no action is being proposed to reduce retirement benefits for those already retired; but, additional consideration in the President's budget would impact future cost-of-living increases for all who receive any type of pension the federal government administers. Further, the President is proposing over and above the increase that went into effect for federal employees hired on/about January 1, that they pay further additional funds. There is also consideration being given to increasing the percentage

Contacting our Federal Legislators

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202.225.5816; Fax: 202.225.3251

<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>

2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D

Pasco, WA 99301

Phone: 509.543.9396; Fax: 509.546.1972

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514

<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

402 East Yakima Avenue, 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://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A

Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

each employee, retiree and survivor pays for health benefits through any of the plans under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP).



Continue to ask questions at our monthly meetings, read articles in our newsletter, the federation's quarterly *Federation Reporter*, and the monthly *narfe* magazine. Also, for those using computers, if you're not currently signed up for NARFE's Global Electronic Messaging System, GEMS, please consider doing so. It is a great way to quickly get updates on current important issues. Remember NARFE's toolkit for the **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign. It has good info. Feel free to contact us, too! Call, or e-mail: don_binder@msn.com; mary_binder@msn.com.

NARFE-PAC – Frank Griffin

The Chapter has contributed \$480 to NARFE-PAC, year to date. We applaud and thank those who have made contributions, and look for even more chapter support. Contributions can be made via the NARFE web site, *narfe* magazine or at a chapter luncheon 3549.



Questions? Call, or e-mail me: fgriff@earthlink.net.

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences sent to: the family of member John Straub on his passing; and to member Tom Davies/ his family on the passing of his father-in-law, Don Anderson.

Continue to let me know about those needing some "sunshine." Call, or e-mail me: mary_binder@msn.com.





Return Service Requested

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

TO NOTE!
Presentations
from the March
2013 NARFE
Legislative Training Conference
are on the NARFE web site:
www.narfe.org



Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Robert Hummell; Deborah Lopez

Transferred In: Charles R. Lee

Life Members: Chapter 1192 now has 38 “Life” members. For more information on this membership category, including payment options, see page 50, the May *narfe* magazine.

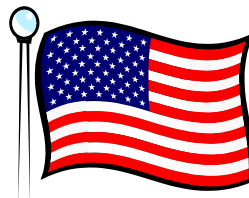
Dues Withholding for Retirees: Chapter 1192 now has 86 dues withholding members. We’d sure like to get more retirees signed up as they retire. It saves NARFE from continually sending renewal notices; and, it saves the retiree from receiving the renewals plus about \$6/year. If you need a dues withholding form and/or have questions, please contact me or any board member.

Welcome back, Snowbirds! Notify the chapter/ NARFE if you change mailing, e-mail, or other contact info – especially when you return home!

Hidden numbers: March/April newsletter hidden numbers belonged to: Joe Andreasen; Diane Johnson; and, Jack Rhoades. Joe did call and asked that his \$5 winnings be donated to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research. Thank you, Joe! Three new numbers are “hidden” in both the printed and electronic newsletter – the last 4 digits of a member’s number. Contact me; win \$5!



ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW



Upcoming Dates to Note!

May 12: *Mother’s Day*
May 18: *Armed Forces Day*
May 26: *Memorial Day*
June 14: *Flag Day*
June 16: *Father’s Day*
June 21: *Summer Begins*



NARFE on Twitter! Follow at: @narfehq
Facebook: Log onto Facebook, go to “NARFE National Headquarters,” then “Like”
NARFE Toll-Free Number: 800.627.3994;
Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234
OPM: 888.767.6738, “Retirement Info Line;”
www.opm.gov/retire/; or, retire@opm.gov

Thoughts from Afar Deacon Al Rizzo



Mercy: doing good things.
It is like rainwater for the seed
you put in the ground.

*Taken from March 4, 2009, Chapter Meeting Minutes.
Chapter member Deacon Rizzo passed away March 11, 2011.*

**New — the 2013 NARFE Prospecting Initiative to find prospective or likely new NARFE members!
More details and a “prospecting toolkit” in coming months at www.narfe.org. Check it out!**