



**District V Workshop, Thursday, May 28. All welcome!**

# 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.net](http://www.narfewa.net) Tri-Cities: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)

## 2015 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

<b>President, Don Binder</b>	509.585.1393
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Lorie Bennett</b>	509.531.2745
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554
<b>Secretary, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.585.1393
<b>Treasurer, Nancy Crosby</b>	509.735.3288
<b>Director-at-Large, Steve Howes</b>	509.851.4913
<b>Director-at-Large, Pat Turner</b>	509.586.6239
<b>Alzheimer's, Bill Darke</b>	509.375.7757
<b>Legislative, Don &amp; Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.585.1393
<b>Membership, Johanna Caylor</b>	509.308.6664
<b>NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes</b>	509.851.4913
<b>Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.585.1393
<b>Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.585.1393
<b>Service Office, Lorie Bennett</b>	509.531.2745
<b>Webmaster, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554

**May – June, Volume 2015, Issue 3**

## **Chapter President – Don Binder**

If you receive electronic notices from NARFE's national office, you have seen how engaged our president, Richard Thissen, is in telling our NARFE story. Whether with our coalition partners, through media outlets such as *The Washington Post* or through meetings with members of Congress, President Thissen is our strong voice in the D.C. area.

Here in the Tri-Cities, I try to be that voice; but, I need more members to also raise their voices and be heard. For example, more than one letter explaining the virtues of federal employment will help negate the negative publicity that comes from the few federal employees who gain publicity and paint a picture unlike what the vast majority of us ever encountered in our careers.

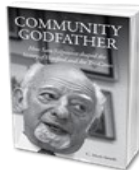
## **CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August  
11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick  
Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED

**(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)**

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.  
Need a ride? Contact President Don Binder.  
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

**May 6** – C. Mark Smith discusses his book: *Community Godfather*



**Menu: chef salad w/turkey, ham, tomatoes, Swiss and cheddar cheeses**

**June 3** – Erin Steinert, outreach specialist, CBC: Bechtel National Planetarium and its programs  
**Menu: turkey wrap – turkey, spinach, tomato, roasted pepper, cucumber, tomato vinaigrette**

## **MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT\***

Balance forward, February 28	\$11,187.02
March income	\$ 551.26
March expenditures	\$ 490.00
Dedicated funds thru March 31	\$ 1,322.00
Balance on hand, March 31	\$ 9,926.28

(\*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter website.)

Note: Chapter funds have been transferred to a NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union account. The Umpqua Bank account will be open through the 2016 WSFC convention for convention business.



So, as we approach Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9, why not write a letter to the *Tri-City Herald*, or another newspaper if you live outside our metropolitan area, to show federal employees in a positive light.

Congress is considering several changes that would negatively impact earned benefits of current and retired federal employees. So, now is the time to use this information to encourage membership-eligible individuals you know to join NARFE – and, preferably our chapter.

I wish you a wonderful spring and summer as we consider how blessed we are to live in the Tri-Cities. Remember, numbers are meaningful – that is, there is strength in numbers – as we speak to leaders and members in other federal organizations, with members of Congress and with the general public.

### 1st VP/Service Office – Lorie Bennett

Do you ever get calls, emails or have conversations with current or retired federal employees who have questions about health benefits, life insurance, survivor benefits or anything else related to federal employment or retirement? If so, please let me know what was asked and the reply. These interactions can be counted as “service” and are tracked in the service office. Thanks!



### 2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

If you haven't checked the NARFE website recently, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), I recommend you do so! It is constantly being updated, including making it easier to find and access information. Again, check it out; and, don't forget to check our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), to help keep up on the chapter – everything from the newsletter to minutes to monthly programs to menus! **6452**

### Director at Large – Steve Howes

As you may recall, the Future of NARFE (FON) effort was initiated in 2013 by the NARFE National Executive Board (NEB) to respond, in part, to our organization's declining membership and reduced revenue. As part of that initiative, the NEB recognized the need for strategic planning to assist in determining NARFE's future course and maintaining its continued organizational viability. Delegates at the August 2014 NARFE national convention concurred and passed a resolution supporting developing a strategic plan.

That planning process is building some momentum. In a recent memorandum to Region IX federation and chapter officers, Chuck Brodigan, the Strategic Planning Committee Region IX representative – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – briefly described some of the committee's operating principles and what will occur in the near term. In short and most importantly, he stated the process will be open, honest and transparent throughout. The committee will listen to input from everyone, including both active and non-active members.

The committee met in April at NARFE headquarters. Chuck wrote that he will provide “highlights of the meeting” and “information about initial action issues.” The chapter board will: follow the committee's efforts; discuss its reports; share this information at chapter meetings and in this newsletter; and, ask for member input and feedback.



To learn more about this strategic initiative, go to the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). On the homepage, find “HQ Happenings” and then “Strategic Planning.” There you will find several informative documents that describe the entire process in detail. I suggest you read them and be prepared to share your thoughts and opinions. I view this as a very important effort.

## 2016 WSFC Convention

May 15-17, 2016  
Three Rivers Convention Center and  
Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick  
Mark your calendars!  
Volunteers needed!



### District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

The Region IX Training Conference will be May 2-3 in Clackamas, Oregon, immediately preceding the Oregon federation's annual convention. Several District V members are planning to attend and then share information at the District V Workshop, Thursday, May 28, Columbia Center Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick. **7968**

Our district workshop agenda also will include planning for the 2016 WSFC Convention, May 15-17. Other topics will include legislative issues, PAC and retaining members. I have also invited District I chapters members to attend – Colville Valley, Columbia Basin, Spokane and Wenatchee. It is an opportunity to share ideas and get to know our District V members and our District I neighbors.

Our recent recruiting efforts have been quite successful, but we cannot depend on the federation or national to continue giving us rebates to offset the cost of offering free memberships. It is up to chapter members to help spread the NARFE message, particularly to our current federal employees. **0441**

We have several events coming up that provide an opportunity to meet and greet, e.g., the Senior Life Show, June 18, Three Rivers Convention Center. The chapter will again have a booth. Please consider volunteering to help staff this and other chapter activities. Thanks!



## Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

Due to health reasons, and Mary's decision to stay and care for me, we did not attend the March Legislative Training Conference in Washington, D.C.; so, we don't have first-hand information to share.

Looking ahead, we are working to schedule a meeting with Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-4th), hopefully in May. We'll provide members a follow-up.

If you receive NARFE email updates, have you sent the recent letter templates to our elected officials expressing your opinions regarding proposed changes to current and retired federal employees benefits? Before the Easter/Passover recess, the House and Senate passed 2 different budget appropriations. They are now working in conference to approve a joint bill that could have VERY negative impacts on both current and retired federal employees. Please ensure you read up on its impact! There is information in the May *narfe* magazine and/or the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

On the state scene, there are 5 key items of focus: funding education, based on the supreme court's decision several years ago, and class size based on last year's voter-approved referendum; transportation, including a gas-tax increase to provide additional funding for key infrastructure needs; mental health needs versus using prison; taxes that should bring in an additional \$3B due to economic recovery, but the governor wants to add an additional \$1.4B; and finally, having medical and recreational marijuana regulations harmonized. Watch for updates after the legislature adjourns.



Questions on the above or other issues? Contact us!

## NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

March was "NARFE-PAC Month" and it was one of our chapter's better months for contributions! At the March chapter meeting, we collected \$130, which brought our yearly total for the first 3 months to \$223. We had 2 more members sign up as "sustainers," which will amount to an additional \$180 by calendar year end. Also in March, chapter members submitted \$600 in checks directly to NARFE-PAC.

For the quarter ending March 31, our chapter led the Washington federation chapters with \$1,093, which is \$269 more than our closest "rival." This is an amazing show of support and the funds will go a long way to help the campaigns of those members of Congress who help protect earned benefits of current federal employees and retirees.

## 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., Stes 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Here is another "benefit" that can be gained by contributing to NARFE-PAC.

Vancouver Chapter 131

NARFE-PAC Chair Charlie Caughlan wrote this for his chapter's March newsletter: *"A few years ago, I personally sent contributions to candidates who I thought supported our causes. Then I would get phone calls, emails and mail hounding me for more dollars. I hated that. That's when it hit me – I could contribute to NARFE-PAC and the dollars would go to where they were most needed. I could remain anonymous and I wouldn't get harassed for more money. Splendid."*

Thank you to all for your continued support – from those who put a dollar or 2 in the bowl at meetings to "gold-level" contributors. All contributions are important in helping NARFE achieve its mission and in maintaining our earned rights and benefits.

## Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

More than 5 million Americans have the Alzheimer's disease, including one in 10 seniors. It is the third leading cause of death in Washington State, and the state has the third highest Alzheimer's death rate in America. These are among the reasons NARFE and the Alzheimer's Association have partnered in helping fund research into this disease.

END  
ALZ

April 30 ends our Alzheimer's Research Fund donation year. Thank you to everyone who donated. During the April chapter meeting, we received \$62. Also in April, \$92 was sent to the federation, bringing our total for the year to \$2,540. This is \$200 more than last year and a new record for Chapter 1192!

Remember, contributions are tax deductible, if you itemize deductions. Thanks again for your continued support.





## Return Service Requested

### NARFE

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

### Chapter Baseball Outing!

We are planning another chapter evening outing — to a Dust Devils game either June 23, 24 or 25. Sign up at the May chapter meeting, or call me, Lorie Bennett, 509.531.2745



### Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome new member: Susan Lindsay

Dues Withholding: Susan Lindsay

**Retirees!** I'm now sounding like I'm "preaching to the choir," BUT it is important that you know about dues withholding for membership renewals. Only \$3.67/ monthly from your annuity. Call me, 509.308.6664, if you need information and/or the withholding form or have questions. Advantage of switching? Complete the form, mail it (with NO MONEY) and within 6-9 weeks, you will receive a notice from OPM telling you the amount of the deduction and the new amount of your annuity. Plus, you will receive a one-time, \$15, combined rebate from our WSFC and chapter for signing up.

**Snowbirds:** WELCOME BACK! Please ensure we have your updated contact information. Over the winter, **numerous** newsletters were returned "UNDELIVERABLE," "TEMPORARILY AWAY," etc., as members did not notify us about a change. This costs the chapter money! Notify me or Nancy Crosby. Thank you.

**Hidden numbers:** March/April hidden numbers belonged to: Timothy Bruno, Marji Parker and John Stark. **Still no calls;**

**still no winners! Let's change this!**

Find 3 new numbers "hidden" in this newsletter — **the last 4 digits of a member's NARFE number.** Contact me, 509.308.6664, and win \$5.



### Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Thank you for helping our callers by returning their calls. This is important for our lunch count. Should you need, my contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304;** **email: [pgriff1@earthlink.net](mailto:pgriff1@earthlink.net).**



**THANK YOU FOR THE CALL!**

### Sunshine News – Mary Binder

**Condolences to the families of members:** Aubrey Dodd; John Hecker; Helen Mennecke; Michael Tiernan

**Condolences also to members:**

Larry Williams/his family on the passing of his brother-in-law, Edward Shane; Jill Fennell on the passing of her brother; WSFC Emerald Chapter 1701 on the passing of President Robert Brown.

**Thinking of you/get well wishes to:** Chapter President Don Binder, 1st VP Lorie Bennett; members Phil Lamont, Sig Preston; and, WSFC Finance Chairman Mike Ferri.

**Reminder:** Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: **[mary\\_binder@msn.com](mailto:mary_binder@msn.com).**



**Chapter 1192 Service Office – open** Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536.



<p><b>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY</b></p>	<p><b>Remembering all moms and dads, May 10 and June 21!</b></p>	<p><b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b></p>
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