



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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May – June, Volume 2016, Issue 3

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

The song for April has been "April Showers Bring May Flowers." Well, this year we seemed to have had more blossoms here in the Tri-Cities than normal. I hope you all enjoyed the fragrances, but weren't or aren't too affected by allergies.

Staying with April, a special thank you to Terry and Kathy Maurer, antique appraisers, for again donating their services at our April chapter meeting. They provided yet another most-interesting program. To note – because of their busy schedules, we are the only such program they still do; so, we feel honored!

Now, looking ahead, we definitely have a busy May ahead with our Washington State Federation of Chapters convention, May 15-17. Then, in June, our last monthly chapter meeting before the summer recess.

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st 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 Lorie Bennett.
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

May 4 – Brad Peck, owner, Moore Mansion, will talk about the mansion's history, restoration and current use.

Menu: chef salad with turkey, ham, tomatoes, cheese



June 1 – Lara Hastings will provide information on the Hands In for Hands On (HiHo) endeavor to bring a children's museum and science center to the Tri-Cities.



Menu: whole wheat or spinach wrap (turkey, spinach, tomato, roasted pepper, cucumber, tomato vinaigrette)

MARCH TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, February 29	\$10,822.84
March income	\$ 1,017.70
March expenditures	\$ 594.81
Dedicated funds thru March 31	\$ 3,132.00
Balance on hand for use, March 31	\$ 8,113.73

(*Budget and full monthly reports are on the chapter website.)

First, to our convention! I am encouraged that we will have good chapter representation at the convention. It will be a good opportunity for chapter members to meet other NARFE

members from across the state, and members of the Washington federation executive board. A key agenda item will be a presentation by Region IX VP Lanny Ross on the **NARFE Strategic Plan**. We've talked about this at chapter meetings; NARFE has information on its website, www.narfe.org; and, there has been information in the *narfe* magazine. Again, I encourage you to read the plan, or at a minimum, the plan's executive summary. We need your questions and feedback! **9969**



Bigger, Better, Bolder NARFE

Even though we'll not have chapter meetings in July and August, with all that is happening with NARFE, including the national convention starting August 28, plus all that is happening on the "election scene" across the spectrum, I believe it will be a busy summer. Meanwhile, I hope you continue to enjoy spring!

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

If you have suggestions for the chapter website, let me know! It is another tool in the chapter's communication toolbox, and like many tools, needs "sharpening" at times. Let me know! Email me at: leapinlar@yahoo.com.



Director at Large – Steve Howes

Many of us who have retired from federal service spent our entire federal working careers with a single agency or department. Although we all were (or are) part of the same workforce, missions differ significantly among governmental departments and agencies. Very seldom do we have the opportunity to learn more about what colleagues in other federal agencies do and the services they provide.

February 24, 12 members of Chapter 1192, along with a few friends and spouses, had just such an opportunity when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees hosted us for a tour of the McNary National Wildlife Refuge, headquartered in Burbank, Wash.



Our group met at the visitor center where we were briefed on the history and mission of the National Wildlife Refuge system, in general, and the McNary refuge, in particular. Lamont Glass, refuge manager, explained that the McNary refuge was established in the mid-1950s to help mitigate loss of waterfowl habitat on the Columbia River resulting from construction of the McNary Dam.

While the refuge's primary mission is to manage habitat for migrating waterfowl such as ducks, geese and swans, it also provides habitat for a variety of birds of prey, songbirds, shorebirds, mammals and reptiles. The refuge promotes environmental educational opportunities for local schools and other interested groups. While this effort is sponsored and supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is staffed primarily by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Following our briefing, the group boarded vans for a field tour through the refuge. We observed results of a recent prescribed burn to remove unwanted vegetation and increase shoreline accessibility for waterfowl. We also saw co-operative farm fields where a portion of each harvest, primarily corn, is left for birds. Finally, we saw the new pond and drainage

construction in the Walla Walla River Floodplain. Hopefully, these new improvements will provide much needed wildlife habitat for the future.

A trip highlight was watching a large flock of about 10,000 snow geese move from the farm fields to one of the ponds. It was quite a sight that will not be soon forgotten by those who were there.

Yes, it was a good trip. If you have ideas for other future chapter trips, let me, or another chapter board member, know. As to what's next? See below!

Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 18, 7:00 p.m., for this year's chapter outing at a Dust Devils baseball game. Cost: \$9.00 per person. The signup sheet will be at the May chapter meeting. Or, email me at: loriebennett4310@gmail.com. We need at least 12 signups to make this activity happen!



Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

NARFE has now raised more than \$11,700,000 toward Alzheimer's research since 1985. The current goal is to raise at least \$12 million by the end of 2016. We're close!

Members attending the 2014 NARFE National Convention in Orlando voted to establish the current goal. It will be interesting to watch whether the goal is again increased at this year's national convention.

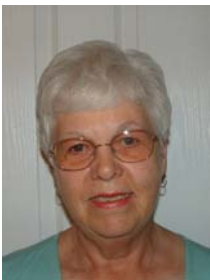
On the home front, at our April chapter meeting, we received \$23.00, which brought our Alzheimer's account balance to \$172.00. I sent a check for \$144.00 to the federation Alzheimer's chairman, reducing our account balance to \$28. [A reminder: a small amount is maintained in the chapter's Alzheimer's account to keep it open.]

The Alzheimer's fundraising fiscal year for our federation is May through April. So, our 2015/2016 year ends each April 30 and a new year begins May 1. For the year ending, our chapter members contributed \$2,500.00 to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund – our second highest funding total! Thanks to everyone who contributed.

A final reminder – by contributing to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, you ensure that your entire contribution goes for research rather than having a portion go for overhead. This is per the agreement NARFE has with the Alzheimer's Association. Also, if you itemize on your tax return, donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund are tax deductible. **620s6**



District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby



After more than 2 years of planning, The 56th Washington State Federation of Chapters Convention is upon us! It starts Sunday, May 15, with an evening welcome reception, wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. Besides 40 District V members, more than 60 other NARFE members are registered to attend from almost all 21 federation chapters.

To recap some highlights. We have planned an interesting and full agenda, including: presentations from our keynote speaker, Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director; Lanny Ross, Region IX vice president; Colleen French, the DOE program manager for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park; Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center. There will be a "Q&A" session with representatives from Senator Murray's and Cantwell's offices; and, we expect a special "welcome" from Congressman Newhouse via video. We are also thrilled that our banquet entertainment will be provided by members of the Columbia Basin College Jazz Combo.

There will be vendors with information on FEHBP, financial planning and retirement living; and, both NARFE-PAC and Alzheimer's will have tables with information and will be accepting donations. Also, yes, attendees can purchase tickets for drawings for numerous door prizes, and items donated for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Always a convention highlight!

For the day after the convention, we have planned an escorted trip to the B Reactor National Historic Landmark, Wednesday, May 18, at 8:30 and again at 11:00 a.m. The tour is free and reservations can be made until May 1. To sign up and for more details, please email me: ncrosby2b@charter.net. Note: chapter members not attending the convention can still go on one of the tours.



So, with good member participation from across the state and all we have planned, I believe this will be a memorable federation convention that will support our theme, a **"BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER NARFE."**

Now, staying with conventions, next on the agenda will be the 34th NARFE National Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 28 to September 1. The convention theme is: **Progress. Protect. Persevere.** Information is on the NARFE website and in the *narfe* magazines, including how to register. As a reminder, our Washington federation is offering a \$100.00 "scholarship" to help offset member costs. Our Chapter 1192 also will assist in the expenses of chapter members who attend.



While all conventions are important, with so much at stake for the future of our NARFE organization, I believe both our federation convention and the national convention will be even more important. So, participation, too, becomes even more important.

Finally, this will be my last Chapter 1192 newsletter report as your District V vice president. I have so enjoyed representing the 3 district chapters – Tri-Cities, Yakima and Walla Walla – and being part of the Washington State Federation of Chapters Executive Board. Thank you for this opportunity. **0441**

ANNOUNCEMENT!
**OPEN SEASON FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES GROUP
LIFE INSURANCE**
September 1 to September 30
Tammy Flanagan, Federal Benefits & Retirement Expert

The last FEGLI open season was in 2004 ... In 2016, due to the change in premiums [in January], there will be another open-enrollment period. Employees won't have to prove insurability or have experienced a particular life event to participate in this rare open season. Retirees won't be eligible to take advantage of the open season. (Both employees and retirees can decrease their life insurance at any time and there are circumstances under which employees can increase their FEGLI coverage without an open-enrollment event.)

Increases in insurance coverage made during open season will take effect at the beginning of the first pay period on or after October 1, 2017.

Legislative – Mary Binder

As President Lorie Bennett wrote in her article, page 1, it will be a busy summer. Steve Howes, our chapter NARFE-PAC chairman, echoes this in his article below. Further, at chapter meetings, President Lorie has continued to encourage members to send letters to our elected officials, especially for legislation NARFE supports pertaining to our benefits as either current or retired federal employees. Two examples are: H.R. 711, a bill that while not eliminating the long-fought Windfall Elimination Provision, would at least reduce the amount of money Social Security penalizes federal annuitants; and, S. 2699 and H.R. 4585, pertaining to “Federal Adjustment Income Rates.” The Senate bill supports a 5.3 percent pay raise in 2017; the House bill supports a 3.9 percent raise. More details are in *narfe* magazines.

So, repeating from our last newsletter, here are the “how-to” steps for using the NARFE letter option:

- ◆ Sign in as a member on the NARFE website.
- ◆ On the homepage, click Departments, Legislation, Legislative Action Center, Contact Congress.
- ◆ Enter your ZIP or ZIP+4 Code, then click Go.
- ◆ Select an “issue” under Take Action.
- ◆ Complete your contact information.
- ◆ Click Go to Letter.
- ◆ Select the letter you want to send.
- ◆ Click Submit.

That’s it! It is that easy! It is free! And, it is that important, especially with all that is happening.

NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

The election season is currently in full swing; and, if you watch any of the cable news networks, all you seem to hear about are the presidential primaries, delegate counts, which candidate said what and to what effect, and what may happen if a particular candidate is elected in November. There has been much discussion by candidates of both parties dealing with immigration, the national debt, foreign policy, the economy, military strength, and the role of the federal government. It is often difficult for individual voters to make sense of it all and to separate reality from political theater. As active or retired federal employees, we may feel uncertain about potential impacts the upcoming elections could have on our earned rights and benefits. One thing you can be sure of, I believe, is that federal employees and retirees will once again be in the crosshairs when future battles over the budget are waged.

That is where NARFE “has our backs.” Regardless of who becomes the next president, Americans will also elect 34 senators and 435 representatives in November. To make good on campaign promises, the president will have to deal with Congress.

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

One way in which NARFE advocates for us is through its political action committee – NARFE-PAC. NARFE-PAC makes contributions to candidates who are supporters of issues important to us. With NARFE-PAC contributions, our supporters in Congress are more likely to continue to lend their support to our issues.



NARFE-PAC contributions are a good investment. In combination with NARFE’s lobbying efforts and our own grassroots actions, PAC contributions improve our chances of achieving our legislative goals. Your contributions to NARFE-PAC are more important than ever. So, please consider an additional amount if at all possible and/or becoming an ongoing supporter as a “sustainer.” How? I have information at chapter meetings and there is information in each *narfe* magazine.

NARFE-PAC STATS AT A GLANCE

NARFE’s Legislative Action Center provides quarterly NARFE-PAC summary information – everything from individual chapter contributions to federation and region totals to distributions made to elected officials.

NARFE members can access this information. Log onto the NARFE website as a member.

Then go to: Departments, Legislation and NARFE-PAC. At the bottom of the NARFE-PAC homepage, click on Quarterly PAC Contribution and Disbursement Reports.



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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



May 1 – 7, 2016

Membership – Johanna Caylor

New member: Colleen French ... Welcome!

Transfer in: Ernest Amundsen ... Welcome!

Reinstatement: Myrna Partida ... Welcome Back!

Recruit! Retain! The Washington State Federation of Chapters is again offering its chapters a \$20 rebate for each new chapter member recruited during the year. This offer runs through December.

Attention Snowbirds and All Members!

Please remember to share your contact information with us and/or change in mail or email delivery status so we don't have mail and emails returned as undeliverable! Questions? Call me, 509.375.0739, or send me an email at, caylorx2@aol.com.



Hidden numbers: March/April newsletter numbers belonged to: Clifford Clark;

David Jones; Victoria Ravelly. No calls; no winners. Three new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of your NARFE number.**

Find yours; win \$5! Call me, 509.375.0739, or let me know at a meeting! Only one winner in 2015... we're trying to at least double that in 2016! Forgot your number? Check the label on your narfe magazine.



Hospitality – Lorie Bennett

The Red Lion catering staff and servers for our monthly luncheons are new. Please let me know, or Nancy Crosby or Mary Binder, if you find something missing or wrong. In the months ahead, we'll also be asking for menu ideas for 2017!



PROTECT America's Heartbeat Toolkit!

Go to: www.narfe.org.

Frequently updated! A great resource!

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences: to the family of member Norman Ravelly; to member Julie Erickson, and her family, on the passing of Leif; to the family of former WSFC Secretary Jo Rice.

Thinking of you: to member Arlon Bold; to WSFC Secretary Linda Sanders; to WSFC Service Officer Charlie Caughlan.



Reminder: Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Keeping your NARFE contact information current helps both membership and our callers! Looking ahead, over the summer we'll be reviewing and updating our caller lists. So, help us help you! My contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304; Email: pgriff1@earthlink.net.**

Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536. Stop by for a visit!

Also, check out a new member-only resource – the **NARFE Federal Benefits Institute!** See NARFE's website, www.narfe.org! Upcoming "webinars" will cover the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program. Changes are coming, including premium increases.

