



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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.org Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Important! Complete the U.S. Census 2020 – paper, online, phone options. See page 2.

2020 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
Vice President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.586.8232
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, John Wetterling	509.545.8016
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Vacant*	
Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

*For assistance, call Nancy Crosby or Mary Alice Binder.
See their numbers, above.

May – June, Volume 2020, Issue 3

Chapter President – Pat Turner

It is amazing to reflect on how much has changed in our world since I penned a message to you in February for our March/April chapter newsletter. Just in our “NARFE world” alone, for example: we’ve had to cancel our April, May and June chapter meetings; our Washington State Federation Executive Board voted to cancel the biennial federation conference in May (see box below and WSF President Nancy Crosby’s article, page 2); and, NARFE headquarters in Virginia is currently closed until June 11, with most staff working remotely, as directed by that state’s governor.

I want all chapter members to know that we – your elected officers and committee chairs – are thinking of you and hoping you are well. We are very much hoping this challenging time will end soon and are looking forward to gathering again, hopefully in September. Stay tuned. Watch for email updates, check our chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, and/or a call from one of our chapter callers. **For now, stay home, stay healthy!**

Meanwhile, I am in touch with board members, working on everything from adjusting schedules to future programs to monitoring the chapter budget and donations. Please know our chapter board members continue to work to keep the chapter running and viable. **4549**

Also, while NARFE headquarters is closed, staff members have continued to work, including on Capitol Hill. Here again, continue reading your monthly narfe magazine, watch for electronic updates for those of you receiving those from NARFE, and check the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.

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: \$20; reservations REQUIRED

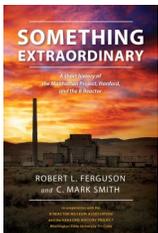
(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Meeting Programs – The April and May scheduled meeting programs, an update on the Arts Center Task

Force and a presentation by local author C. Mark Smith on his latest book, *Something Extraordinary*, are being rescheduled. Target time frame is fall 2020 meetings.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Continue to check the chapter website for 2020 meeting schedule updates, programs and menus; chapter and board minutes; and more: www.narfe1192.org.

Also remember to check the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, for federation and other information.



Washington State Federation “Virtual” Conference
In lieu of the actual May WSF biennial conference, there will be a 2-hour “virtual” conference, Thursday, May 21, starting at 9 a.m. All federation chapter and national-only members are invited to attend. Agenda items will include: annual reports; the need to fill several district VP and chairman positions; and installation of the newly elected federation officers. More details, including the link to this “GoToMeeting,” are on the federation website, www.narfewa.org. Membership number required.

WSF President – Nancy Crosby

As your chapter president, Pat Turner, wrote in her article, page 1, much has changed since the chapter's March/April newsletter. For those members for whom NARFE has email addresses, you should have received an email from me April 19 with several announcements. For all members, here is a recap of that information:

WSF Executive Board (EB) Meeting – The board conducted a virtual GoToMeeting (GTM) April 9. Along with a March 20 test to see how this type meeting would work, this was a first for the WSF EB!

WSF Biennial State Conference – With concerns regarding COVID-19, the WSF EB made the decision to cancel the 2020 WSF conference, May 19-21. Registration payments have been returned. The conference committee is negotiating with the Embassy Suites to set another potential date in 2022.



WSF Meeting – In lieu of the actual conference, there will be a “virtual” one using GTM, Thursday, May 21. (See box, lower right, page 1, this newsletter, for more details. Membership number needed to register.) I hope many WSF chapter and national-only members can join us. The WSF elected officers for 2020-2022 will be installed:

- ◆ President, Steve Roy (Everett Chapter 193)
- ◆ VP, Mary Binder (Tri-Cities Chapter 1192)
- ◆ Secretary, Linda Wallers (Vancouver Chapter 131)
- ◆ Treasurer, Arlene Patton (Spokane Chapter 32)

FEDcon20 – At this time, NARFE is moving forward with the conference, August 30 to September 1, Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz. The WSF EB has approved “scholarships” for WSF members who attend the conference and submit WSF Form I, Expense Report, along with supporting paperwork, e.g., hotel receipt. The form is on the WSF website,



www.narfewa.org. Elected WSF board members and elected chapter officers will be reimbursed \$500; all other federation members will be reimbursed \$250.

For registration and other conference details, go to the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.

Finally, it has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as your WSF president. Thank you for the support!

Secretary – Mary Binder

A quick follow up to my update in our March/April chapter newsletter – I was medically cleared in early April so am back in the Tri-Cities! Again, thank you to all who have provided me support, thoughts and prayers these past many months. I am looking forward to seeing many of you soon. **0596**



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

Good news! The bills are paid and there is money in the chapter bank account – about \$16,865 as this newsletter was finalized. Recent bills included for printing the chapter newsletter and the annual bill for the chapter's website domain name. Coming up will be the annual \$100 board liability insurance bill, which is part of NARFE's board insurance policy.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

The 2020 U.S. census is underway! I hope you have taken the time to complete the 10 questions. While some deadlines have changed due to COVID-19, we can help the Census Bureau, and our respective communities, by doing our part – completing the census.

As I wrote in the last newsletter, “in the 2010 census, Benton and Franklin Counties were **undercounted by nearly 30%** or 75,000+ people. Each uncounted person is a **loss of \$2,300 per person** each year for 10 years and affecting 130+ federal programs including: Medicaid; Head Start; housing and food for low income families; public transportation; college student loans; highway planning and construction; children's health insurance; and, public school funding.”



Other reminders! **“Your 2020 Census responses are safe and secure and protected by law.**

The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, money, to come into your home, for your bank or credit card account number, your mother's maiden name or threaten you with arrest if you do not comply. You can respond **online, by mail or by phone.** Answering the 10 questions will take less than 10 minutes.”

(Source: Benton-Franklin County Census 2020)

An update! Recently, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs “granted ‘emergency’ approval for the bureau to conduct a Household Pulse Survey within the next 90 days to gauge the economic and health impact the pandemic has had ... The bureau's survey will gather data on employment status, consumer spending, food security, housing, education disruptions, as well as physical and mental wellness that will inform how federal, state and local agencies respond to the pandemic in the coming weeks and months.” Please respond if contacted.

Legislative – Mary Binder

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your May *narfe* magazine. On pages 6-7, you will find a NARFE Washington Watch article about the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) laws, including an explanation of both, a May call to action for NARFE members to contact their legislators, and information on the May 14 NARFE webinar, “GPO and WEP: Understanding the Evil Twins.” (Also see box, below right, and page 18, *May narfe* magazine.)



As the article states, these laws “reduce the Social Security benefits of 2,620,585 retired workers, workers with disabilities, spouses and children across the United States, according to the Congressional Research Service.” NARFE has been working to repeal, or modify, these laws for many years, and they remain one of NARFE’s top legislative priorities.

While GPO and WEP do not affect all NARFE retirees, they do affect many, along with many “local, state and federal retirees ...” So, help NARFE advocacy staff help those affected by these 2 laws! At the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, go to the Legislative Action Center and follow the prompts to send a “personalized message to your lawmakers.” And, to learn even more, “attend” the webinar! Thank you.



NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

Election year is definitely here! As always, NARFE is on the front line in Congress fighting for our benefits. We need to support this effort and can do that through NARFE-PAC. Whether it is working to repeal GPO and/or WEP, or maintaining other benefits, NARFE’s advocacy staff is working for us. **0491**

Even without attending a monthly chapter meeting, you can support NARFE-PAC. For example, see page 13, *May narfe* magazine, for mail-in contribution information. For those comfortable with online contributions and/or becoming a NARFE sustainer, information is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. After logging in as a member, go to “Departments” then “Advocacy” and then “NARFE-PAC.” Thank you for helping support NARFE-PAC.

FYI! The 5th quarter, January 1 thru March 31, NARFE-PAC reports for the 2019-2020, 2-year, congressional cycle are now posted on the NARFE website. Follow the above log-in process to access them.

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

Alzheimer’s Research – Larry Williams

Our WSF Alzheimer’s “fiscal” year is May 1 through April 30. So, for the year that just ended, our chapter members contributed \$3,185 to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund – yes, our highest funding total ever!

Further, several chapter members contributed another \$450 at last fall’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Kennewick. Although the amount does not count toward the chapter’s fiscal year contribution, it does count toward NARFE’s current \$14 million goal by year end 2020.



Looking ahead, we have preliminary plans to again have a chapter team in this year’s walk, **Sunday, October 11**. Mark your calendars! Last year we had 7 chapter mem-

bers register and 4 walk. By starting the planning process earlier, I am hoping for more chapter participation this year. Watch for updates in the months ahead – at chapter meetings, on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, and in future newsletters.

NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinars

May 14 – *GPO and WEP: Understanding the Evil Twins*
(Tammy Flanagan; Jessica Klement)

RECENT!

April 14 – *Act II: How Federal Reemployment Affects Your Benefits*

April 21 – *Managing Your Federal Retirement Benefits during the COVID-19 Crisis*

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



NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

Return Service Requested

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

May 3 - 9, 2020



PUBLIC SERVICE
RECOGNITION WEEK

“36 years of honoring public servants and connecting citizens with their government”
(Hosted by the Public Employees Roundtable)

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Well, spring is here and summer not too far away. I hope all our “snowbirds” made it home OK and did not get quarantined along the way.

To all members, including our snowbirds, **PLEASE** ensure your mailing/email addresses, and phone numbers are current! **Note! This includes apartment or unit changes in the same complex!** Let me know, please!

Welcome: Dennis Cannon; Jeff Peterson; Roger Snyder

Reinstated: Debbie Trader (dues withholding)

Distinguished Members: If your name was listed in our January/February chapter newsletter as a member with at least 20 years NARFE membership and you have NOT received your “distinguished member” recognition material, please call me at 509.375.0739, or email me, annahojx2@gmail.com. Again, thank you for all your years of NARFE membership!

Hidden Numbers: March/April newsletter (only 2 numbers): Lorie Bennett; Patty Strange. No calls; no winners. Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits, your NARFE membership number**. Call or email me, see above contact information, and you, too, can win \$5!



Potential National Dues Increase: NARFE is considering a ballot measure, which members would vote on prior to **FEDcon20**, proposing an annual national dues increase from \$40 to \$48. If your dues are coming up for renewal, consider paying for 3 years or becoming a NARFE national life member. Save money!

CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS !

Reminder – to guarantee a lunch, reservations **MUST** be made by the Sunday evening prior to the meeting. So, if your caller leaves a message, **PLEASE** return the call, or call me.



Contact: Darleen Wall

Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: jdwall2@frontier.com

Thank you for your support!

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the March/April newsletter:

Condolences to chapter members:

Carl Gallion on the passing of his sister, Lynn Hanke; Dennis Maupin on the passing of his wife/member, Betty; Nancy Schreckhise on the passing her husband/member Gene

Chapter member passing: Muriel Eileen Montgomery recently passed away

Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me or email me: einvlieger@aol.com.



CFC Special Solicitation – COVID-19

Responding to several federal departments and agencies queries asking how to do even more to help victims affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Acting OPM Director Michael J. Rigas recently authorized a special Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) solicitation through June 30. Members of the military, postal workers and retirees can create a new gift or an extra gift to support their favorite CFC-participating charities online or through the CFC mobile giving app. For details go to the CFC Donor Pledging System webpage at: www.cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome. For questions, email cfc@opm.gov, or call 202.606.2564.