

**Registration open for NARFE's Virtual Centennial Celebration and LEGcon21. See Page 3.**

**2021 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members**

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

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

## May – June, Volume 2021, Issue 3

### Chapter President – Pat Turner

Thanks to modern technology, our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 has been able to “virtually meet” during this covid pandemic, including being able to continue to provide excellent meeting programs. The board, too, has met virtually and will continue to work on finding interesting programs. Of course, we always like to hear from our membership, including with program suggestions.

**[A reminder! The chapter does not meet during July and August.]**

Regarding our virtual meetings, for those who are not comfortable with the computer format, or may not have computer access or a smartphone, **there is a call-in option!**



**Yes, you can call into a virtual meeting and listen in using a landline phone.**

While different from seeing members and a presentation, it is still a viable option and one several members use. See Nancy's article, page 2, for more information.

Speaking of members, the board is always looking for and needs members who want to be more involved with the chapter, whether in elected or appointed positions, working on committees, etc. Volunteers – those willing to help, step up to the plate – are why our chapter can remain open and viable. So, if you would like to be more involved, please call me.



Spring has definitely arrived here in our area of the state and summer is right around the corner. It is a great time for many of us to be out and about, but please be careful – don't overdo it if you are working in your yard, exercising, or whatever. Be sensible and cautious.

I hope, too, that everyone who can has received the covid vaccine. On behalf of the entire board, we are very much looking forward to resuming our in-person chapter meetings and presentations – starting in September to celebrate the chapter's 50th anniversary and NARFE's centennial! Having members vaccinated, healthy and feeling comfortable gathering again will definitely be factors in our ability to once again see members in person at a meeting!

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August  
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

#### **Virtual Chapter Meetings Continue!**

***Virtual vs. in-person chapter meetings, including meeting programs, continue monthly, each first Wednesday, for the foreseeable future.***

***See VP Nancy's article, page 2. Chapter members will continue to receive updates in future newsletters, in email notices for those with email addresses on file, from the chapter's callers and on the chapter's website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).***

**May 5** – A presentation from Kris Todd, marketing director, WindSong, Kennewick, on this new, Montessori-style dementia care facility.



#### **June 2** –

A presentation from Elizabeth McLaughlin, executive director, Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation, on the Foundation and its regional cancer philanthropy.



**Remembering  
all moms and dads,  
May 9 and June 20!**

## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

While I'd like to report we are back to having in-person meetings, I am pleased to say that our Zoom virtual meetings are still being held and we have had a few members "attend" each month besides board members. **All members are welcome to join us!** This has helped our chapter stay connected during the past year.

I do maintain an ongoing list of email addresses from members who have attended past virtual meetings and/or who have asked to be added to the list. Then, unless a member asks to be removed from the list, each month they automatically get a notification from me. If you do not have an email address on file with me, or need help with Zoom, please call me at 509.735.3288 (leave a message and I will return the call), or send me an email at [ncrosby2b@charter.net](mailto:ncrosby2b@charter.net). Reminders:

- ◆ Members with desktop, laptop, smartphone or tablet capabilities and internet access can participate with video or audio options.
- ◆ For members who do not have these options and **would like to call and listen to the meeting using a landline**, call me and I will give you the call-in and meeting ID numbers.



We have interesting programs coming up for our May and June meetings, besides updates from our officers and chairmen. Then, there will be a break in meetings for the summer. So, I hope to see some new faces or hear new voices on these upcoming meetings. **If you have questions, want more information, want to be added to my Zoom list, please contact me.**

## Service Office – Nancy Crosby

Once again we have received several calls regarding how to contact OPM, the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute and/or Social Security Administration. So, another reminder to ensure you have completed NARFE's **F-100, Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know**. As I wrote in the March/April newsletter, the F-100 is available on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Log in, then go to the NARFE Home Page, Officer Resources, Resource Library, and Be Prepared. The document is fillable online and can be saved to your computer, a thumb drive, disk, etc., and updated as needed. Once completed, ensure at least one family member or friend has a copy or knows how to access the document.

If you do not have computer access and need a copy of the F-100, or need other assistance with the document, please let me know. Another resource is NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute at 800.456.8410, and option 2.

NARFE had an informative webinar April 8, "CSRS Offset: The Best of Both Worlds or a Nightmare?" If you were not able to attend and want to do so, the webinar is archived on the NARFE website. After logging into NARFE, go to the NARFE Home Page, then to Resource Library and Webinars. That site has all NARFE's past webinars.

Looking ahead, the Federal Benefits Institute is planning 2 webinars in May, both hosted by Tammy Flanagan, a federal benefits expert:

- ◆ *Navigating the Retirement Process: Smooth Sailing to Your Life After Retirement*, Thursday, May 6, 2 p.m., EDT.
- ◆ *Plan Ahead: Helping New and Mid-Career Feds Manage Your Benefits*, Thursday, May 20, 2 p.m., EDT.

## WSF President – Steve Roy

***[Editor's Note: President Steve attended the chapter's virtual March and April meetings. Following is from his reports to members, and a recent message.***

Working with Region IX VP Linda Silverio, I drafted a proclamation for Governor Jay Inslee recognizing NARFE's centennial milestone. I am pleased to report it will be dated for Public Service Recognition Week, May 2-8!



As I previously reported, I established the WSF Reinvention Committee earlier this year to look at our federation's future. The committee has met virtually several times. To better understand the needs and wants of our federation leaders and members, the committee has been developing surveys. Recently, chapter leaders electronically received their survey. It is due by mid-May. Other surveys will follow to those chapter and national-only members for whom we have an email address.

Registration is open for **LEGCON21** and NARFE's Centennial Celebration. Both will be virtual. **WSF will reimburse your early-bird registration fees for both events (see Mary's article, page 3) with prior approval from me. Email me BEFORE registering so I can provide the approval, [stevenroy1@comcast.net](mailto:stevenroy1@comcast.net).** I am also asking for feedback after the events – what you liked or did not like; how the experience may benefit you, your chapter or even our WSF. I hope many members attend!

As your WSF legislative chair, I want to again emphasize the importance of contacting our elected officials, either directly or via the NARFE Advocacy Department, which has template letters that can be sent electronically within minutes, [www.narfe.org/legislation](http://www.narfe.org/legislation).

Several congressional representatives are now co-sponsors of legislation to repeal GPO and WEP, one of NARFE's legislative "campaigns." So, contacting legislators is helping! Another good source for tracking legislation, is [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov).

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

As President Pat referenced in her article, page 1, we are targeting celebrating the chapter's 50th anniversary and NARFE's centennial at our September chapter meeting. We are hoping this can be an in-person event! I will be working on this celebration over the next few months. If you have ideas, suggestions and/or would like to help me, please contact me, 509.378.2494.

## Legislative – Mary Binder

As this newsletter was going to press, NARFE announced that registration is open for **LEGCON21** and the NARFE centennial celebration. Both events will be virtual. While certainly not what was originally envisioned, the realities of covid restrictions have resulted in virtual events. On the very positive side, this will provide opportunities for members to at least "virtually" attend events they would not have attended in Washington, D.C. For those



who received the announcement electronically, a reminder that the early-registration discount fee for the legislative conference, \$135 vs. \$150, ends May 7. The cost for the centennial celebration is \$50. Information, including registration, is available on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). **See WSF President Steve's article, page 2, regarding WSF reimbursement for your registration!** Questions? Please contact me.

And, another reminder about the importance of contacting our elected officials. How do they know what is important to us if we remain silent? For example, President Pat recently shared that she has taken the opportunity to call Congressman Dan Newhouse's local Richland office on several occasions. She stated that she felt her interaction with his office on issues important to her were well received and appreciated. She also stated that Congressman Newhouse has supported and kept current on bills that impact our benefits.

## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The first quarter figures for the 8-quarter 2021/2022 congressional cycle are posted on the NARFE website! They include information about each chapter's PAC contributions, including the number of sustainers; total figures for each federation and region; mean average contribution; disbursements to elected officials; and, much more. If you are interested in reviewing the reports, go to the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), and then to the Advocacy Department tab. The reports are under NARFE-PAC.

Some highlights from the reports:

- ◆ Between sustainers and other contributions, chapter members contributed \$595 to NARFE-PAC during

## 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

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

the quarter ending March 31. This placed the chapter 6th out of the federation's 16 chapters.

- ◆ However, with 7 sustainers, the chapter ranked 2nd after the Bremerton chapter, which had 8 sustainers.
- ◆ And, once again, Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) ranked first in the "mean" contribution at \$57.20. This well exceeds NARFE's overall mean average of \$39.95, and reflects positively on our region and that our PAC contributors recognize the importance of NARFE-PAC.

Whether as a sustainer, annual contributor, or periodic contributor, ALL contributors and contributions are appreciated. Thank you for the support to NARFE-PAC!



## 2021-2022 NARFE-PAC Goals

- ◆ Raise \$1,850,000 in member contributions
- ◆ Disburse \$1,350,000 for political purposes
- ◆ Send NARFE members to 120 local in-person or virtual events

## Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams

On the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), at the "Programs" tab, there is a link to the free Washington State Alzheimer's Association's Educational Outreach Webinars for May and to the ALZ magazine.

Save the date – **Sunday, October 10**, the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in Kennewick. There will be in-person



and virtual options. The chapter's team is registered, "NARFE Tri-Cities Chapter 1192." Registration is open! Please join us!

## Return Service Requested

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

May 2-8, 2021



**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
RECOGNITION WEEK

### Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The chapter's finances are holding steady at about \$17,500. Bills are paid, including \$100 to renew the chapter's liability insurance policy, a significant saving as the chapter can "buy in" to NARFE's national policy. Also, annually, we must submit IRS Form 990N, a requirement "for small exempt organizations" to maintain their exempt status. There is no cost involved. Finally, a cautionary note when buying stamps from entities other than an official USPS office – you may be charged a handling fee that could be sizeable!



### Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Welcome home to our snowbirds! Hope you had a great winter, even during this pandemic.

Heads up! I've learned that at least some of NARFE's membership renewal notices have not been going out as timely as they have in past years, which has also affected the information I see on membership reports. As a rule, members receive a renewal notice from NARFE 3 months before their renewal date, then again at 2 months, and also a reminder from your chapter membership chair. So, please double check that you have renewed your membership, including for the chapter. Chapter dues remain \$10, but national dues have increased from \$42 to \$48/1 year; to \$92/2 years; and to \$126/3 years. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: (H) 509.375.0739; (Text) 509.308.6664; (Email) [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com).



Next, some Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 membership numbers! Between chapter (219) and area national-only (144) members, there were 363 NARFE members as of an early April report – an increase of 3 since my report in the last newsletter! This is positive!

### CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

We know many members block calls from unknown callers, so when our callers leave a message, PLEASE return the call. When you don't, we do not know if you actually received the message. Also, if you would prefer a text message rather than a call, please contact me: **Darleen Wall**, Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: [jdwall2@charter.net](mailto:jdwall2@charter.net).



Finally, a reminder if you want to save a little money – dues withholding for retirees. For example, rather than \$58 (\$48/NARFE dues; \$10/chapter dues), you only pay \$52 – a \$6 savings. Divide this by 12 months, and it is only \$4.33 from your monthly annuity, and you don't have to deal with reminders! I can provide you the form or you can access it on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). This option is available to current employees, too, once they retire. To note, our chapter does better than many NARFE chapters in the percentage of members on dues withholding. So, a challenge – can we do even better? Need help? Have questions? Let me know!

### Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the March/April newsletter:

**Condolences to:** members Lorie Bennett on the passing of her brother and to former member Gail Splett on the passing of her father.

**Thinking of You to:** Region IX Alzheimer's Chairman Leland "Wally" Walbruch.

**Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, [einvlieger@aol.com](mailto:einvlieger@aol.com).**



### Webmaster – Larry Williams

Yes, we still have a chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). It remains a tool in our NARFE communication toolbox. Also, a reminder that our Washington State Federation also has a website with a wealth of information, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).

