



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](http://www.narfe.org) Washington Federation: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org) Tri-Cities: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)

**Reminder! Early-bird registration for FEDcon22 ends May 13!**

### 2022 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	509.308.2765
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, Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
Sunshine, Faye Vliieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS**

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

### **Chapter In-Person Meetings Continue!**

**Current plans are for in-person chapter meetings in May and June, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd. If that changes, members will receive updates 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 4** – Malin Bergstrom, president of Bergstrom Aircraft, and a founder of the Save the Old NAS Pasco Control Tower, will provide an update on the recently re-opened Pasco Aviation Museum and the Tower.



**Menu: chicken, bacon, avocado club sandwich w/fries, chef's choice of salad and dessert**

**June 1** – Master Gardener Susan Inlow-Romine will provide information on this WSU Extension Service program – what it does, volunteering, gardening tips and more!

**Menu: roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes, chef's choice of salad and dessert**



### **May – June, Volume 2022, Issue 3**

### **Chapter President – Pat Turner**

Since 1985 the first week of May has been designated a time “to honor the people who serve our nation as federal, state, county, local and tribal government



employees.” I am extending my appreciation to all our members who have served or are serving our community or country, with special thoughts to those serving overseas, especially supporting Ukraine. May all be safe.

I was so pleased our March and April chapter meetings were in-person! Caller Coordinator Darleen and VP Nancy have done an excellent job reminding members to RSVP for the luncheon meeting. PR Coordinator Mary continues to keep meeting programs interesting and enjoyable. **A reminder – we need a minimum of 15 paid lunches to meet our Red Lion Hotel contract!**

I also want to recognize Service Officer Ellen LeVee for her work in providing members benefits information and for her one-on-one assistance to several members. She is a retired benefits professional so please contact her if you have questions and/or need assistance.

Membership – both recruiting and retaining members – remains a top NARFE priority. Do you know a family member, friend, co-worker, etc., who could join? Please consider contacting them, or giving their contact information to Membership Coordinator Johanna!

NARFE's biennial conference, **FEDcon22**, is August 21-23. Several chapter members are already registered to attend! In October, our Washington State Federation (WSF) will hold a virtual conference. See WSF President Steve's article, page 2, for more details.

Spring is a wonderful time here in the Tri-Cities, even with what seems like never-ending wind! It is a time for family bonding and, most of all, staying safe!



Finally, a reminder about the *NARFE Magazine*. Each edition is an excellent source of NARFE information!

## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

We are SO fortunate to have a nice facility to hold our in-person chapter meetings. For more than 30 years, the chapter



has met at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center. The hotel staff continue to work with us and provide us excellent service and lunches.

We had a very good turn out for our April meeting! Antique appraisers Terry and Kathy Maurer again provided members insights into and updates on the world of antiques in today's environment, and provided values and information on items members brought. They have been providing updates to the chapter since 2003, and the chapter is now the only such presentation they provide. Thank you again, Terry and Kathy!

We have excellent programs scheduled for our May and June meetings, too. So, I hope even more members can join us. **A reminder – if you make a lunch reservation and are a “no show,” you owe for the lunch unless it can be filled by someone else.**

## Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

NARFE has a free, new and important 12-page white paper for members, “Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants.” The document is also helpful for reporting the death of a spouse designated for a survivor benefit. It can be downloaded on the NARFE website and then printed, or call NARFE at 800.456.8410, option 2, for a free copy. [To download, log into the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), then go to the Federal Benefits Institute, Resources and Information, and White Papers tabs. Click on the white paper's title, complete the requested information, and the download will pop up for printing.]

## NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

May, June, July NARFE webinar information is in the May *NARFE Magazine*, page 21, and on the website. They are:

- ◆ “Managing Your TSP in Retirement,” May 5.
- ◆ “Understanding FERS Deferred/Postponed Retirement Options,” June 8
- ◆ “Understanding Military and Civilian Federal Service Credit,” July 7

All NARFE webinars are FREE to members, and past webinars are archived on the NARFE website.

For those with TSP accounts, several changes are coming soon. An example is a new investment option – a mutual fund window that will let you buy and sell mutual funds as part of your portfolio. To note – because of upcoming changes, all transactions will be temporarily unavailable from May 26 to the first week in June.

If you have questions or need assistance in locating any of the above information, please contact me at [ejlevee22@charter.net](mailto:ejlevee22@charter.net), or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message and I will return your call!)

## WSF President – Steve Roy

Spring brings many joys – trees and shrubs greening, flowers blooming. It is a time of resurgence, including for NARFE.



The WSF Advisory Committee – the elected officers, and our appointed chairmen and coordinators – had a virtual meeting April 8. It was open to all WSF members, whether chapter or national-only. Minutes and meeting reports will be posted on the federation website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). A few highlights and reminders:

- ◆ **FEDcon22**, the biennial NARFE conference, will be August 21-23, Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz. [See the NARFE website and/or pages 42-43, May *NARFE Magazine*, for details.] The Advisory Committee approved “scholarships” for WSF members in good standing who attend the conference and submit the WSF F-I reimbursement form and relevant receipts. This includes the \$190 early-bird registration, up to that amount for later registrations, and also up to \$750 for airfare, hotel and other related out-of-pocket expenses. I hope these “scholarships” encourage WSF members to attend!
- ◆ NARFE national officer elections will take place this year. Candidate statements are in the May *NARFE Magazine*, pages 44-52. I announced at the WSF Advisory Committee meeting that I am a candidate for the Region IX VP position that Linda Silverio is currently holding. She previously announced that she will be moving out of the region after her term expires December 31. Watch for voting details in future *NARFE Magazines*, on the NARFE website and via other announcements. Remember to vote.
- ◆ Our WSF annual meeting and conference will be virtual, October 10-14. **NOTE!** These will not be full-day sessions! The agenda, including days and times are being developed. We will be electing WSF officers – president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, district vice presidents. Please consider running for an office, and remember to vote in this election, too. Continue to watch for updates in this newsletter, on the WSF website and electronic updates from me.
- ◆ On a sad note, NW Cascade Chapter 196 and East Lake Washington Chapter 1404 recently closed. About half the members transferred to other chapters, with the other half becoming national-only members. So, I appreciate even more all that Chapter 1192 members are doing to keep their chapter open and viable.



## Public Relations – Mary Binder

We did it! After a VERY LONG wait for the return of the in-person Senior Times Expo, it happened, April 19, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick! An estimated 650 people attended. Numerous individuals stopped by our table and asked about NARFE. **[A special thank you and welcome to any of those individuals who are reading this newsletter!]**



Our table was next to Congressman Dan Newhouse's and he was able to stop by for a brief time! I even had a photo op with him! (See below, right.) For your calendars – the fall event is Tuesday, October 18.

The chapter will be participating in 2 outreach events in May – the Washington State Rural Letter Carriers Association's convention, May 21-23, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center. I am scheduled to provide a NARFE presentation and we'll have a NARFE table. Then, also May 21, Three Rivers Convention Center, we'll be participating in Congressman Newhouse's Veterans' Fair in the afternoon. It has been a few years since we've participated in one of these fairs. So, more opportunities to reach out and tell the NARFE story.



## Legislative – Mary Binder

If you haven't read Marsha Padilla-Goad's article, page 10, May *NARFE Magazine*, I recommend it. While reading it, I thought about a children's book, *The Little Engine that Could* and the little engine saying, "I think I can, I think I can ..." when facing almost insurmountable odds. Marsha, NARFE's director, grassroots, wrote, "NARFE's success with postal reform legislation is one example of triumph through collaboration and persistence. After years of tireless lobbying and member grassroots activities, Congress passed an amended version of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 ..." which President Biden has signed into law. Per Marsha, "this bill provides financial relief to the agency and preservation of the mail service we all rely on. It also addresses the key NARFE concerns advocates have been fighting for ..."

Marsha's article highlights some of the challenges in the legislative process. She then wrote, "While the path is difficult, it's not impossible. It just takes numbers, collaboration and persistence. That's why member engagement in grassroots activities is an essential component of NARFE's long-term advocacy strategy to influence Congress' decision-making. When NARFE members communicate with their lawmakers – through meetings, letters and phone calls – about an issue relating to federal and postal 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 #130, Richland, WA 99354

Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509.713.7377

### The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0238

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

402 East Yakima Ave., Suite 420, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509.453.7462; Fax: 509.453.7731

### The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.3441; Fax: 202.228.0514

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

825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 206, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

earned pay and benefits, they humanize the problem and spur legislators to act in their constituents' best interest."

Is our legislative process perfect? Far from it! Is it hard? You bet! Does it require citizens to be engaged? Yes! So, knowing how important engagement is, but also how challenging it can be for some members, NARFE's Advocacy Department has worked to make the process easier – providing everything from a wealth of fact sheets to letter templates that can be sent electronically to elected leaders within seconds. For those who don't use electronic options, NARFE has ways to assist these members, too.

Again, passing legislation is challenging, and often requires time and effort ... from us. While not a perfect system, as I reflect on alternatives we are witnessing in our world today, the little engine's "I think I can, I think I can" becomes even more relevant and important. So, to all who have been and are actively engaged with our elected officials, thank you. Please continue. For those who have not been engaged, please reconsider. Thank you.

## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 5th quarter PAC reports  for the 2021/2022 cycle ending March 31 are on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). I am reviewing them and will have an update at the May chapter meeting. However, preliminarily, our chapter, federation and region continue to be strong NARFE-PAC supporters. So, thank you to everyone who is supporting NARFE-PAC. Please continue your support.

Pat, Mary and I will be attending an event Monday, May 2, for Congressman Newhouse. Through NARFE-PAC and WSF President Steve Roy, we were asked if we could attend. This is part of NARFE's "political but nonpartisan" efforts to develop and maintain relationships with our elected legislative leaders. I will provide a report at the May chapter meeting.

**Return Service Requested**

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

**TO:**

**Dates to Remember**  
**Mother's Day, May 8!**  
**Armed Forces Day, May 21! Flag Day, June 14!**  
**Father's Day, June 19!**  
**NEW! Juneteenth, June 19 (Holdiaiy, June 20)!**

**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

The chapter's bank balance remains at about \$17,000.00. Routine expenses are the meeting lunches and newsletter. Upcoming expenses include renewing our liability insurance policy and website hosting services; and, at its May 18 virtual meeting, the chapter board will discuss "scholarship" options for members attending the NARFE national conference in Arizona.



**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

I am pleased to write the chapter now has 100 dues with-holding members, including a new "d/w," Liz Bracken! "D/W" saves retirees \$6.04 annually and only \$4.33 monthly from their annuity. Want to know more? Need help? Please contact me. (See below.)

A reminder! Consider a one-year gift membership – maybe to a relative work-ing for the federal government. For NARFE members who are current federal employees (CFEs), encourage your co-workers to join NARFE, maybe also share your *NARFE Magazine*. Need an extra magazine and/or have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com). Note – to get credit for being a recruiter, ensure you put your NARFE member number on membership application forms, in the magazine's label box, etc.



Finally, I can't express enough the importance for all of us to have our personal affairs in order. We don't know when it will be our time ... and our loved ones need to be prepared for the seemingly endless paperwork that follows. NARFE has a great tool for this, the F-100, *Be Prepared for Life' Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*.

**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

*(Since the March/April newsletter)*

**Condolences to:** the families of life member Margaret Bartok, and members Judy Hames and Elizabeth Lindsay

**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

Our callers continue to make tremendous efforts to contact members on their lists about upcoming meetings. When they leave a message, PLEASE return their calls so we can ensure you have been notified. Not have a recording device for messages? Prefer a text message or not being called about meetings? Please contact me. Thank you!

**Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869; or Email: [jdwall2@centurylink.net](mailto:jdwall2@centurylink.net)**



who passed away recently; to member Randy Grekowicz/ his wife, Fia, on the passing of Fia's mother

**Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes to members:** Sig Preston; Mary Lou Standerfer; Ruby Ulseth; Darleen Wall  
**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).**



**Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams**

Reminders! Sunday, October 9, the area's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's! Our chapter team is registered, so you can sign up for the walk and/or make a donation. Go to [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk), then click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in the box titled "Team Name," which will take you to "registration/donation."



And, it is not too early to start thinking about what you will bring to the November 2 chapter meeting for our annual "white elephant" fundraiser for the research fund!

**Webmaster – Larry Williams**

Check the chapter, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), and federation, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), websites for a wealth of information!