



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! 2023 (Virtual) Legislative Training Conference, June 20-22.**

### 2023 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

<b>President,</b> Pat Turner	509.539.5659
<b>Vice President,</b> Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
<b>Secretary,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Treasurer,</b> Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer's,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator,</b> Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
<b>Legislative,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Membership,</b> Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC,</b> John Wetterling	509.545.8016
<b>Newsletter,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer,</b> Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
<b>Sunshine,</b> Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554

### May – June, Volume 2023, Issue 3

#### Chapter President – Pat Turner

For more than 30 years the first full week in May has been set aside “to honor those who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees.” Titled “Public Service Recognition Week” (PSRW), this year’s recognition is May 7-13. So, a special “thank you” to all who have served or are serving. We depend on you and very much appreciate your service.



In-person PSRW celebrations have returned! The area’s celebration is May 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, in partnership with the state’s Office of Financial Management, federal agencies and the City of Richland. Gesa Carousel rides are from 5:45-6:45 p.m. Hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages will be provided, and there will be both indoor and outdoor seating.

#### **CHAPTER MEETINGS/PROGRAMS**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; reservations REQUIRED

*(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)*

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

*Note: Executive Board meetings are virtual. Days/times vary.*

#### **Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Programs**

**May 3** – Jeanne Dillner, CEO, SIGN Fracture Care, will provide an overview of this local non-profit’s mission to give “the injured poor access to fracture surgery by donating orthopaedic education and implant systems to surgeons in developing countries.”



**Menu: chicken/bacon/avocado club sandwich, French fries, dessert**

**June 7** – Executive

Director Dot Stewart, and NARFE chapter member, will provide an overview of the Miss Tri-Cities program, an affiliation of the Miss America program, including: her 25-year involvement; the program’s focus on “Style, Service, Scholarship and Success;” and the life-long skills participants learn.



**Menu: beef stroganoff, noodles, veggies, salad, dessert**

For our members impacted by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and/or the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), NARFE announced a significant milestone in an April 10 release – less than 4 months after the start of the 118th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, has ... the support of a majority of U.S. House members. NARFE is now concentrating “its legislative advocacy and grassroots efforts on hitting the next key milestone, 290 cosponsors – which would trigger floor or committee action – and urging House caucus and committee leaders to advance the bill on behalf of the millions of deserving federal annuitants and their dependents and survivors in their districts.” NARFE has been advocating the repeal of GPO and WEP for decades! This announcement reflects the most significant traction ever in the repeal of this unfair legislation that affects millions of retired federal government workers AND “state and local government retirees who likewise did not pay Social Security payroll taxes in connection with their government employment, similar to CSRS.”

## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

As we head into our last 2 monthly meetings before our July and August summer recess, it is a good time to reflect on all the positive things happening to our chapter. We have gained several new chapter members, and some transfers from national-only members and closed chapters. Much is due to a lot of “outreach” and our outreach activities, e.g., the Senior Times Expos, newsletters, transfers from closed chapters, health fairs, the Walk to End Alzheimer’s, and publicizing the positive impact NARFE can have on our retirees and current federal employees.

To help keep this momentum going, we are developing plans to enhance our chapter’s social events outside monthly meetings! We received a number of good ideas at a recent chapter meeting. So, our initial endeavor is a group event at a Dust Devils game. We will have more details at the May chapter meeting and on the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).



Once again, I urge you to consider serving as a chapter officer, or a coordinator/co-coordinator for specific functions such as Alzheimer’s, legislation, NARFE-PAC, newsletter, public relations, etc. This fall we will be preparing a slate of chapter officers to be elected in November for 2024-2026. We are only as strong as our combined efforts to recruit, keep members, and encourage participation in our support of NARFE and our chapter. Our monthly meetings and programs are SO important to keeping us informed and updated on things that can affect our retirement and benefits. The meetings are also a great time to meet new members and/or catch up with other members. I appreciate your continued participation.

Finally, remember ALL members are invited to “attend” our virtual Zoom board meetings. Just let me know at [ncrosby2b@charter.net](mailto:ncrosby2b@charter.net) and I will send you an “invitation.” Meanwhile, have a wonderful spring!

## Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

For clarification – our Red Lion Hotel Kennewick catering contract is for preplanned menus (salad, entrée, dessert, coffee, iced tea, water). IF requested ahead, a vegetarian meal or large salad will be prepared. No other special meals are available. Hot tea or decaf coffee can be served only if available at the hotel at that time. [If you have a question in this regard, call me at 509.735.3288, leave a message, and I will return the call.]



## Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

Did you know you can request a digital copy of the current and archived *NARFE Magazine*? Go to the NARFE

website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), “News & Events,” then “NARFE Magazine.”

Regarding the magazine, 2 great articles in the April issue:

- ◆ Page 22, “Medicare Resources: Who Can You Trust?” Although health benefits open season is a long way off [November 13 through December 11], it is not too early to take a look at these helpful resources and gain an understanding of Medicare and health benefits before we are bombarded by mail, TV ads and emails.
- ◆ Page 26, “Maximizing Social Security.” Excellent article on what to consider before claiming SS benefits.



The next NARFE webinar – “Mid-Career Reality Check: Golden Handcuffs or a Move to the Private Sector?” – is Wednesday, May 17, 2 p.m., ET. Webinars are free for NARFE members. If you cannot attend the actual live webinar, you can find past webinars archived on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Go to the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute tab and then “NARFE Webinar Archive.” Future webinars will be announced in the *NARFE Magazine*, on the NARFE website and electronically.

If you have general questions or need assistance, please email me at [ejleee22@charter.net](mailto:ejleee22@charter.net), or call me at 509.438.4284. [Leave a message; calls will be returned.]

## WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

A busy winter is now a busy spring for the Washington State Federation (WSF) elected officers and appointed coordinators. Between virtual meetings, several in-person visits at chapter meetings, emails, phone calls, etc., officers and coordinators are continuing to work to keep the federation alive and vibrant!



Within District I, which covers Eastern Washington, our Wenatchee Chapter 239 is now officially closed. Next will be Yakima Chapter 238. A number of members from each chapter have transferred their membership to either the Spokane or Tri-Cities chapters; others are opting for national-only membership. For those new chapter members, WELCOME! But, whether chapter or national-only membership, THANK YOU to all who are maintaining their NARFE membership ... a key to NARFE’s future.

And, kudos to the Tri-Cities chapter! Strong attendance at chapter meetings and the number of new members has garnered recognition. In fact, Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor, was mentioned in the March *NARFE Magazine*, page 42, in a list of NARFE members “who brought in multiple members” in 2022. Congratulations, Johanna, and Tri-Cities Chapter 1192!

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

Success! Another great Senior Times Expo, April 18, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. With about 70 vendors, it was a great **FREE** opportunity for those 55/older to talk to representatives from “local businesses and agencies with booths geared toward active and retired seniors.” At our NARFE chapter table, we had numerous conversations with members and prospective members. We also had opportunities to interface with representatives from several local organizations who are recognizing NARFE as a go-to resource.

A very special “thank you” to chapter volunteers Nancy Pochert, top photo, right; and, Left to right, bottom photo, President Pat Turner, Beki Van Buren and Janice Lake. Also, a “thank you” to Johanna Caylor, membership coordinator, for preparing materials for the table. Now, looking ahead, mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 17, for the fall Senior Times Expo!



## Legislative – Mary Binder

Quarter 1 of the 118th Congress, is history. It almost goes without saying that the legislative process is hard, frustrating and often slow. Sometimes members question whether there are accomplishments. I draw your attention back to the March *NARFE Magazine*. There is an “accomplishments” article starting on page 8 that recaps “numerous wins” for the federal community in the 117th Congress.



For the 118th Congress, NARFE President William Shackelford’s article, page 4, April *NARFE Magazine*, has good information on NARFE’s legislative priorities.

A top NARFE advocacy priority remains the repeal of GPO and WEP, as President Pat highlights in her article, page 1, this newsletter. Also, see page 8, April *NARFE Magazine*. While GPO and WEP do not affect all NARFE members, they do affect MANY, along with state and local government retirees who did not pay Social Security payroll taxes and/or whose work is not covered by Social Security.

[NOTE! Tossed your *NARFE Magazine*? See Service Officer Ellen’s article, page 2, for digitally accessing the magazines, or contact me.]

Next, coming soon AND pulling all this legislative “stuff” together is, NARFE’s 2023 legislative training conference, **LEGCON23**. This virtual event is June 20-22. See page 15, April *NARFE Magazine*, or the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org/legcon23](http://www.narfe.org/legcon23). Reminder! Our Washington

## 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



State Federation (WSF) is covering the registration fee but President Cray Henry needs members to first email him requesting their interest in attending. (This is the only cost for the conference.) Contact me and I will walk you through the process. This is a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE’s advocacy and what we as members can do.

The state’s 2023 legislative session is currently scheduled to end April 23. As a reminder, 2 helpful websites are: for tracking bills, [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov); for tracking “every cent the state is spending,” [www.fiscal.wa.gov](http://www.fiscal.wa.gov). Another site with good state legislature information is: [ballotpedia.org/2023\\_Washington\\_legislative\\_session](http://ballotpedia.org/2023_Washington_legislative_session).



## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

First, thank you to all members who have contributed or are contributing to NARFE-PAC. Whether you’ve mailed a contribution directly to NARFE, given at a chapter meeting, or are an ongoing contributor as a “sustainer,” each and every contribution, is very much appreciated.

There is a good overview article on NARFE-PAC, starting on page 22, March *NARFE Magazine*. Consider keeping it for reference when talking with members and/or prospective members about NARFE and NARFE-PAC, and what is being done for members.





**Return Service Requested**

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

**TO:**



**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

Nothing significant to report! As of March 31, between our Gesa Credit Union savings and checking accounts the chapter had \$13,327.57. Also, the 2022 chapter financial audit should be completed soon.



**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

As of April 16, we have 231 chapter members, 179 national-only members, for a total of 410. This is up from my last report primarily due to the transfers from the now closed Wenatchee Chapter 239.

Welcome to the following new chapter members:  
**2023 new member:** Dot Stewart, wife of member Bob Stewart

**2023 transfers-in:** Christine Slocum from Yakima Chapter 238; and from the now closed Wenatchee Chapter 239: Nancy Belt; Laverna Brunton; Carl Buick; Penelope Buick; Edwin Butler; Earl Carey; Phillip Glass; James Holcomb; Carolyn Lord; Trini Mayo; Patty Ostendorff; May Smith; Dan Soptich; Lawrence Strozzyk; Shirley Gail Tutino; Stephen Willet; Ardis Young

**[Editor’s note: Spelling correction to March/April newsletter transfer-in: JJ Dippel]**

**Dues withholding:** More than 100 chapter members are using this payment option! It is painless, costs only \$4.33/month and you send NO MONEY with your application or renewal form. If you want more information or assistance to enroll, I can help you. A 2023 goal – increase our dues-withholding member number! Call/email me: 509.375.0739; [annahoix2@gmail.com](mailto:annahoix2@gmail.com).

**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

*(Since the March/April newsletter)*

**Thinking of you/get well to members:**

Lorie Bennett; Nancy Crosby; Roger Heusser; Layna Kinsman



**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

Another plea! Please help our callers with their job! When a caller leaves a message, PLEASE return the call so we can ensure you have been notified. Also, if you prefer a text message or email rather than a call, or prefer not being called each month, PLEASE contact me so I can update our calling list accordingly.

NOTE! Vegetarian lunch meals must be ordered ahead of the meeting. Let your caller or me know. Thank you.



**Darleen Wall: (H) 623.556.0869;**  
**Email: [jdwall2@frontier.com](mailto:jdwall2@frontier.com).**

**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**



The 2023 local Walk to End s Alzheimer’s is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Yes! NEW location AND day-of-the-week! We have a chapter team registered and will have a NARFE table.

The presentation Regional Director Joel Loiacono gave on Alzheimer’s research at the April chapter meeting is now on the chapter’s website at the Programs tab. Scroll down to Chapter Program Schedule, the 4/5/23 date, Topic/ Menu Column, and click on the “here” link.

**Webmaster – Larry Williams**

Forgot a chapter meeting date or menu? Want to know about a meeting program? Go to the chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Also remember, the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), has a wealth of federation current and historical information!

