



TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 1192

NARFE NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Advocates for Active and Former Federal Employees
www.NARFE1192.org

November-December, Volume 2009, Issue 5

2009 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President , Nancy Crosby	509-735-3288
1st Vice President , Gary Hagedorn	509-547-3015
2nd Vice President , Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Treasurer , Nancy Crosby, Acting	509-735-3288
Secretary , Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
Legislative , Don & Mary Alice Binder	509-585-1393
NARFE-PAC , Don Binder	509-585-1393
Service Officers , Mary Goldie,	509-582-8757
Nancy Schreckhise	509-585-7558
Alzheimer's , Bill Darke	509-375-7757
Public Relations , Gary Hagedorn	509-547-3015
Sunshine , Anne Ross	509-586-3355
Parliamentarian , Mable Rutt	509-943-1812
Hospitality , Carl Gallion	509-967-9161
Membership, Newsletter ,	
Johanna Caylor	509-308-6664
Webmaster , Larry Williams	509-783-8554
Deacon , Al Rizzo	509-375-0446

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
 11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion,
 Clearwater Room A

Lunch: \$12; reservations requested

Executive Board meets after Chapter meetings

November 4 – Meeting: White-Elephant Auction
 Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research
 Election of Officers

Menu: Mustard-Crusted Pork Loin

December 2 – Meeting: Holiday Festivities
 Bring Food for the Tri-Cities Food Bank
 Installation of Chapter Officers

Menu: Tillamook Cheddar Chive Chicken

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance forward	\$ 7385.70
Income	\$ 685.78
Expenditures	\$ 669.56
Dedicated funds* 18-mo. Budget	\$ 4407.60
Balance on hand	\$ 2994.32

*Estimate as of September 30, 2009

HOSPITALITY

Luncheon Reservations: Each calendar year we contract with our host hotel to provide us with food and services for our monthly meetings and luncheons. The hotel has provided us with exceptional service and makes many accommodations to ensure our satisfaction. The cost to you is just above the actual cost, rounded to the nearest dollar. Our super telephone callers try to make our "count" as accurate as possible as we must pay for all reservations, even if a member makes a reservation and then does not come. For example, we had 8 leftover meals to pay for at the October meeting. Therefore, if you make a reservation, please make every effort to attend. If you have to cancel, please call Mary Goldie, 583-8757, or Nancy Schreckhise, 585-7558, as soon as possible. Finally, feel free to contact me, Carl Gallion, hospitality chairman, 967-9161, or Cbgallion@aol.com, with your suggestions to improve our venue service.

SERVICE CENTER

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,
 Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137
 Phone: 509-373-9536

Our sincere thank you to the ladies who volunteer each month to call members, invite them to our Chapter lunch meetings and 5413 take their reservations. Our callers are: Juanita Anderson; Mary Goldie; Pam Griffin; Marilyn McNeill; Anne Reed; Carolyn Reeploeg; Mable Rutt; Joanne Shadel; Nancy Schreckhise; and, Ruby Ulseth. Come join us at a Chapter meeting and lunch, and bring a friend. You will learn how NARFE works to protect your benefits and about various community activities.

Good to know: OPM number, 1-888-767-6738.
WSFC Website: www.narfewa.net

Chapter President – Nancy Crosby

Fall is here, which means the holiday season is just around the corner. A busy, but hopefully, a fun and memorable time for all.

Meanwhile, we still have a large number of issues facing our members. It is important that you keep checking our Chapter website for updates on current events. I also encourage each of you, if you have not already done so, to sign up for NARFE's "GEMS" notifications. For example, NARFE sends out press releases with the latest Congressional information as it occurs. To sign up, go to <http://www.narfe.org/home/>, the NARFE website, click on "Members," and enter your membership number and last name. The menu on the left side has a category, "What You Can Do Online." Click on "Join GEMS." That will bring up a page that asks for your membership number and date of birth. Then, click on "submit."

Next, we will be voting on NARFE's Dues Referendum at our November 4 meeting. Our chapter is allotted 8 votes and they can be split pro and con. **On page 3, this newsletter, there is a ballot you can submit to me if you will not be able to attend the meeting so your vote will be included.** On our website, there is an overview of the new dues structure and the effect on our chapter dues. Please check it out.

There will be changes in the FEHBP for the coming year. Please ensure you read your latest NARFE magazine and look for information in the mail from OPM. View the premium costs at: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp>. Click on the appropriate program, e.g., HMOs, pages 40-41; Fee for Service rates, pages 1-2. Also, we were represented at the FEHBP Health Fair, October 15, Federal Building, Richland, and the Stevens Center. Many insurance providers had representatives there with information on their programs. We will have a limited supply of brochures at the Chapter's November meeting.

The WSFC is seeking volunteers to serve on committees: Convention and Special. Our Federation leadership wants to maintain these committees year round. I will bring the sign-up forms to the November meeting. And, if you are interested in running for a state office, I am on the nominating committee and can provide the requirements for submitting an application.

At our November meeting, we will also vote on our Chapter's officers for the 2010 year.

Hopefully, we will have a full slate and some new

participants as many of us have been doing multiple jobs and filling several positions. We will accept nominations from the floor, so please think about participating. It seems our Chapter is following the 80-20 rule – 20% of the people are doing 80% of the work. This is your chapter, and it is important that we maintain a qualified board.

Finally, our Chapter recently joined the Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau. We are now on the Bureau's website and will be in its next annual visitor and information guide under "organizations" so federal employees, retirees and their families will know how to reach us.



District V Vice President – Carl Gallion

During September, I attended meetings with every chapter in my district, sharing WSFC information on current and upcoming events, e.g., NARFE's Dues Referendum, pending healthcare initiatives, health fair schedules. I also invited District V, and District 1 members, Walla Walla chapter, to attend our Chapter 1192's October meeting to hear Washington Federation President Sandy Cagle's presentation. Five members from District V and 3 from the Walla Walla chapter came. I'm always gratified by the support I receive.

I will be attending the upcoming Federation meeting in Tacoma, November 18. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at cbgallion@aol.com, or 509-967-9161.

Alzheimer's Research Fund – William Darke

November is NARFE Alzheimer's month and our Chapter meeting program will be our 2nd annual white-elephant auction fundraiser for Alzheimer's research. It was fun last year; I expect it will be again this year. So, look around your home for items that no longer fit in with your lifestyle or décor, and bring them for the auction. Someone else might be looking for just that item, and Alzheimer's research will benefit!

Sunshine News – Anne Ross

Sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of NARFE members Mary Fennessey and Virginia Vaupel. Sympathy, get-well and thinking-of-you cards are mailed to NARFE family members. Please call me, 509-586-3355, if you know anyone needing a card.

Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

As we're sure you know, it has been a busy time for our legislators, with much media coverage, and at times, confusion for many of us trying to sort through issues. We continue to monitor what is happening, especially focusing on issues having the potential to affect NARFE members and their benefits. As others have written, a good place to get updated NARFE information is the Chapter's website. And, as we recommend in each newsletter, contacting our legislators and telling them what we think remains most important. Contact information is listed below. Now, to report a "good-news" story ...

One of NARFE's recent legislative initiatives deals with active Federal employees covered under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the ability of those employees to have their unused sick leave credited when they retire, as is currently allowed for those covered under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). The provision was approved by both houses of Congress, is in the 2010 Defense Authorization bill, and, by the time you read this, the President will most likely have signed it into law. It provides for a 4-year phase-in period. Until December 31, 2013, employees would receive 50-percent credit for unused sick leave; they would receive full credit beginning January 1, 2014.

Information for contacting our federal legislators is:

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202-225-5816; Fax: 202-225-3251
<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>
2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509-543-9396; Fax: 509-546-1972

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202-224-2621; Fax: 202-224-0514
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
402 East Yakima Avenue, 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://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>
825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509-946-8106; fax: 509-946-6937

Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 Voter's Coupon

Make
Your Vote Count
on the

NARFE Dues Referendum

NOTE: If you cannot attend our Chapter meeting, November 4, for the vote on the Dues Referendum, please vote below, and mail/take this coupon to Chapter President Nancy Crosby prior to the meeting.

I vote **YES** on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____
I vote **NO** on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____

Mail/take this coupon to:

Nancy Crosby
7612 W 21st Ave, Kennewick, WA 99338
or, E-mail: ncrosby2b@charter.net

NARFE-PAC – Don Binder

NARFE-PAC is NARFE's legislative arm and allows it to provide a high-quality office to work with Congress, through elected members and staff, to ensure NARFE issues are "front and center." One example – contributions of up to \$5,000 to those running for re-election or against an incumbent when there is a clear difference between the candidates, and one clearly backs NARFE legislative initiatives and the other does not. Additionally, the one who does would use the NARFE contribution to "provide the last dollars for the last vote to win." **For another example of how funds can help, see the "legislative" update, this page.**

The current "election cycle" is January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. As of September 30, nationally, NARFE members had contributed \$127,425.51. Our Chapter 1192 had 12 members give \$475.00. We very much appreciate those contributions; but as we enter 2010, we certainly need to have more of you join those who have given. To do so, feel free to contact me directly, 509-585-1393, or at: don_binder@msn.com. Also, if you attend the monthly luncheon meeting, you may contribute at that time. And, those giving \$20 or more will receive a NARFE-PAC pin, further signifying their contribution.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Johanna Caylor
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Richland, WA 99354
Email: caylorx2@aol.com

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Happy Holiday Season!

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Carole Angulo; Dennis Claussen; Marion Davis; Evelyn Gier; Burton Hill; Russell Moad; and Richard Young.

Dues Withholding: Evelyn Gier; Pamela and Frank Griffin.

Transferred Out: John Dale III; Linda Dillard; Kathy Hamilton; Julie Heimgartner; Ramona Hoffman; Jonathan Sheldahl; and Susan Thompson.

Renewals: Lost your renewal slip and need help? Call me and I will walk you through the process.

Remember: The 2009-2010 WSFC Federation Membership Campaign with \$10 rebates for:

1 - Dues Withholding; 2-Gift Memberships; 3-Spouse sign up.

Reminder: If you change your mailing or E-mail address, or phone number, please contact me.

This is very important so we can continue to provide you 1806 Chapter information.

Help: NARFE not only needs new members – we need to **retain** the members we have. Help our Chapter and NARFE grow and sustain strength!

Health Fair: At the annual October FEHBP fair at the Federal Building (FB) and Stevens Center, we received 2 completed membership applications, handed out a lot of material, and I dropped off NARFE & FEHBP info to IRS, VA and USPS in the FB, plus a couple of satellite agencies in Richland.

Hidden numbers: There are 3 in this issue – last 4 digits of a membership number. Contact me if you find yours, and win \$5! No winners in the September-October newsletter. The numbers belonged to: *Paul Carter, Betty Hollowell and Anne Reed ... sorry!*

Call me: If you have questions, please call me. My numbers are: 509-375-0739 or 308-6664.

Display your flag to commemorate Veteran's Day



Wednesday, November 11