



NOVEMBER 15 – NARFE National Call Congress Day!

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.net Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

November – December, Volume 2012, Issue 6

2012 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Don Binder	509.585.1393
1 st Vice President, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
2 nd Vice President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Alzheimer’s, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.588.1393
NARFE-PAC, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Parliamentarian, Mable Rutt	509.943.1812
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Center, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

Chapter E-mail: narfe1192@gmail.com

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Clearwater “C”
Lunch: \$14; reservations requested

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary

November 7 – Chapter meeting: officer elections
Program: White Elephant Auction
for NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research Fund

Menu: Mustard-Crusted Pork Loin

December 5 – Chapter meeting: officers installed
Program: Val Wenner and holiday music

Menu: Tillamook Cheddar Chicken

SEPTEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT*

Balance forward, August 31	\$6,264.41
September income	\$ 476.84
September expenditures	\$1,794.33
Dedicated funds	\$1,230.00
Balance on hand, September 30	\$3,716.92

(*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter web site.)

Note: Chapter officers/committee chairs will be providing input to Treasurer Nancy Crosby for the chapter’s 2013 budget. Proposed 2013 budget will be presented at the chapter’s November meeting.

SERVICE CENTER

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137
Phone: 509.373.9536

Coordinator: 2nd VP Lorie Bennett

Reminders: Health Benefits Open Season 2012, November 12 thru December 10. The October NARFE magazine, starting on page 40, has good review information. Also, plan details and costs are at www.opm.gov. Remember, “...if you are an annuitant and you cancel your FEHB coverage, you may not re-enroll in the FEHB Program.”



Medicare: For recipients with limited resources and income, Medicare offers “extra help” with prescriptions. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov. Under “Top Services” on the homepage, click on “Get Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs.” Or, call SSA at: 800.772.1213 (TTY: 800.325.0778).



COLAS: For Social Security recipients and federal retirees, the COLA will increase 1.7% in 2013. Changes are effective in January.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

A special “thank you” to members who responded to our annual September calls to all members. This helps us maintain our records, besides having a chance to check in and chat with many of you. Questions? Contact me:

**Pam Griffin, 509.492.4304, or
e-mail: pgriff1@earthlink.net.**



THANK YOU FOR THE CALL

LOOKING AHEAD

1st VP/Hospitality Chairman – Carl Gallion

Two things – first, I’m working with the Red Lion staff on our lunch menu for the next year. The focus: “more healthy.” It will be set before the end of the year and posted on the chapter’s web site. Next, if you make a lunch reservation and don’t show, you still need to pay as the chapter owes for the lunch.

Chapter President – Don Binder

As I write this, the November 6 general elections are almost upon us. Some of you will have voted; others may be doing so shortly. Regardless, I hope one factor in your decision process was how individuals for federal office stand on issues important to NARFE, and thereby, all of us. You can expect updates and discussions at our November and future chapter meetings.



We will have nominations and the election of our chapter's officers at our November meeting, and the installation at our December meeting. If you are interested in serving in any of the officer positions, please contact Frank Griffin at: 509.492.4304.

Yes, the months of November and December bring a special time of year, starting with elections and followed shortly by Veterans Day.

Wherever you may be, please pause and give thanks for all those who have served and are now serving our great nation in our various military services.



Then we move to Thanksgiving, another opportunity for reflecting and giving thanks for all we have. Despite the many challenges our nation is facing, I believe we are truly blessed to be living in the USA with all its bounty.

Quickly following on the heels of Thanksgiving, for many there will be Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza or other religious celebrations. However you choose to celebrate or just quietly enjoy this time of year, it is yet another chance for reflection and giving thanks – to all those who came before us and all they did to enable us to enjoy the lives we have, and those of our family and friends. So, a special “seasons greetings” to you!



2nd VP/Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

The October 12 LIGO tour was awesome. Seven chapter members and three guests attended. The presentation was extremely informative and certainly made all of us think outside the box! Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave science is pure science in the making and not an applied science. However, the guide spoke at a scientific level we could understand and follow. Most educational and something I recommend others attend if they have a chance. There is no cost. There is some walking, but no 9007 stairs. The web site is: www.ligo-wa.caltech.edu/.

Suggestions for another tour? Let me know!

District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Tri-Cities chapter member Larry Williams and I attended the Wenatchee chapter's September 12 picnic. I went as both a Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 member and in my role as the District V VP. Larry and I had a great time – it is always nice to interact with other chapters.

Then in October, I attended the Walla Walla chapter's meeting and had the chance to update members on the August NARFE convention, current Washington Federation plans, and a possible District V workshop next year, maybe in the fall vs. the spring. The Walla Walla chapter meets at 1 p.m. in the social room of a mobile home park. Members take turns bringing treats for a social time after the meeting. Next, I hope to attend the Yakima chapter's November meeting.

Looking ahead, our Washington Federation is still planning to hold a training event in lieu of the annual convention, per a change voted by delegates at the 2010 statewide convention. The dates are May 31 and June 1 and the location – the Quality Inn and Conference Center, Ellensburg. As we receive more information and details are finalized, we'll be updating members.

NARFE-PAC – Carl Gallion

When this article is published, the 2012 election will most likely basically be history. So, it is definitely time for my favorite duty as your PAC chairman – that is, to say a heartfelt THANKS to all dedicated members who contributed to our ability 2833 to keep NARFE interests alive. The sole purpose of NARFE-PAC is to gain credibility with our members of Congress to achieve the best representation for NARFE's interests. Contributions help us do that. So, while we offer pins and umbrellas to recognize contributions, as your chairman, I just wanted to say a simple “thanks” for standing with us.



Our work, however, is not done. Our fight is never over. January 2013 begins a new Congress and challenges. NARFE-PAC will continue to be needed. I'll be available to take your donations.



**NARFE 2013 Calendar
Photo Contest**
(for the 2014 calendar)
Photo deadline: February 15, 2013
Details at: www.narfe.org
**Questions: Call 703.838.7760, ext. 268,
or e-mail: pubrel@narfe.org**

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

Our Chapter 1192 annual “white elephant” auction fundraiser for NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research Fund is at the chapter’s November meeting. It is our main Alzheimer’s fundraiser for the year. So, worthwhile items are most welcome! This is always a fun event – between checking out the items, and the bantering and bidding, it is just a great time for relaxing, laughing, socializing, and most importantly, raising funds for Alzheimer’s research. So, bring your items, cash or checkbook, enjoy the auction, bid and bid again, and hopefully we’ll raise even more than last year.



Reminder – to ensure your Alzheimer’s donations count toward our Chapter 1192’s contributions and NARFE’s goals, make them through me as your Alzheimer’s chairman or use coupons in the *NARFE* magazine.

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Have you taken time to check out NARFE’s updated web site? It was launched August 1. Go to: www.narfe.org.



Reminder! Chapter newsletters and other chapter information is available on our chapter web site: <http://www.narfe1192.org/newsletter.html>.

Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

With members of Congress in their respective states and districts prior to the November general elections, legislative actions were basically on hold. Now, however, the last two months of the year bring us a “lame-duck” session of Congress and more challenges, such as “sequestration.” There is currently a “gang of eight” – equally split between the two major parties – working to develop a compromise on budget cuts that can be presented during this “lame-duck” 9395 session.

If there is no compromise, massive cuts in both defense and almost all other facets of the Executive Branch will be impacted. Even contractors will be impacted – think Boeing and aircraft; think ships and work at our naval yards. Yes, layoffs would be real. Yes, compromise is needed.

Therefore, NARFE has scheduled another NARFE **National Call Congress Day for November 15**. NARFE will provide more information, including a detailed script, via



Contacting our Federal Legislators*

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

**Current as of October 29, 2012.*

e-mail through the Legislative Hotline and GEMS. The Hotline is also available toll free at: 877.217.8234. The toll free number for the Capitol switchboard is: 866.220.0044. Let’s make our voices – many of our voices – heard November 15 on Capitol Hill!

Looking ahead, the biennial NARFE legislative workshop is scheduled for March 9 thru 12 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Virginia. More details are in the November *NARFE* magazine, page 16. Besides the updates and training, our goal is to meet with our 4th District representative, and at least one of our U.S. senators. We’ll be providing a recap at the chapter’s April meeting.



Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences sent to: Patricia English on the passing of her mother.

Get Well or Thinking of You cards sent to: Federation President Sandy Cagle and Immediate-Past Federation Secretary Paul Shell. Cards went to Chapter members: Juanita Anderson; Johanna Caylor; Nancy Crosby; Chris Emmons; Barbara Fedoriga; Pam Griffin; Betty Maupin; John Patten; Norman Ravely; Joe Sebastian; Bob Stewart; and, Faye Vlieger.



Thank you to everyone who provided me names and information. Please continue to do so. Contact me at: 509.585.1393 or mary_binder@msn.com.



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NARFE

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Tri-Cities Chapter 1192
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New Edition!

NARFE's Questions & Answers

Contains more than 200 questions
from NARFE members.

Cost: \$10. Mail orders only.

Coupon in the November *NARFE*,
page 32.

Membership – Johanna Caylor

It was great visiting with current employees at the fall health fairs. Hopefully at least some will join NARFE.

Welcome: Grace St. John

Transfer to E-Chapter: David Trukositz

Membership Transfer to Surviving Spouse:

Grace St. John

Dues Withholding: David E. Miller

Renewals: for retirees, PLEASE consider dues withholding. NEVER see another renewal notice. Only \$3.67/per month withheld from your annuity. SEND NO MONEY with the application. If you need a form, contact me or any board member.

Reminder: please, notify the chapter and NARFE if you change mailing, e-mail, or other contact info! Yes, **snowbirds**, we need these for you, too!

Hidden numbers: September/October newsletter hidden numbers belonged to: Julie Goeckner; Frank Griffin; Margaret Novak. Sorry, no calls, so no winners! Three new numbers are “hidden” in this newsletter – the last 4 digits of a member’s number. Call me; win \$5!

Call/e-mail me: 509.375.0739; caylorx2@aol.com.

REMINDER!

Have an e-mail address? We NEED it.

E-mail helps the chapter *save money*.

Example: No cost to send the newsletter electronically; about \$1/copy to mail.

E-mail only used for NARFE chapter business.

Do we have your e-mail address? If not, send it to:

Nancy Crosby, ncrosby2b@charter.net.

Upcoming Dates to Remember!

November 4: *Daylight Saving Time ends*

November 11: *Veterans Day*

November 22: *Thanksgiving*

December 8: *Hanukkah begins*

December 25: *Christmas*

December 26: *Kwanzaa begins*

Always Good to Know

NARFE on Twitter! Follow at: @narfehq

Facebook: Log onto Facebook, go to “NARFE National Headquarters,” then “Like” NARFE’s **PROTECT America’s Heartbeat** campaign, www.narfe.org

NARFE Toll-Free Number: 800.627.3994;
Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234
OPM: 888.767.6738, “Retirement Info Line;”
www.opm.gov/retire/; or, retire@opm.gov

Thoughts from Afar Deacon Al Rizzo



Political conventions, elections ...
many challenging things happening in our lives ...
With our free wills, we all have different
perspectives. Our free will is a gift – use it.
A gift is no good if it is put in a drawer.

*Taken from October 2008 Chapter Meeting Minutes.
Chapter member Deacon Rizzo passed away March 11, 2011.*

REMINDER: NOVEMBER 15 – NARFE National Call Congress Day! Details in this newsletter.