



IMPORTANT REMINDERS! See Page 4!

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

<u>2016 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members</u>	
President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1 st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2 nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Legislative, Mary Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Office, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

November – December, Volume 2016, Issue 6

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Happy fall season to all! We are fast approaching the national elections for president and members of Congress. Washington State has elections that we all need to follow, as well. Our future depends on who we choose to lead us. So, **REMEMBER TO VOTE!**



Speaking of voting and its importance, at the NARFE national convention, delegates voted on a number of resolutions and amendments that would have, or will, mean changes for NARFE. Of major concern to many in our Washington State Federation of Chapters and the other 4 federations in our Region IX – maintaining the current 10-region NARFE structure and inserting that number into the NARFE bylaws. This proposal failed by just 3 votes, although the initial report was by just one vote. Whether 3 votes or just a single vote, think what a difference a single vote, or even just a few votes can make! What a lesson and reinforcement for all of us!! So, please ensure you vote in our upcoming elections. **9324**

Another vote at the convention that has the potential to affect all NARFE chapters, including our Chapter 1192 – optional chapter membership. Effective immediately, new members will have the option of just joining NARFE and not having to join a chapter. There is no longer a NARFE "e-chapter." Further, renewing members can also opt out of chapter membership. Our Director-at-Large Steve Howes, has some thoughts on this new option and its potential impacts. See his article, page 2.

Finally, to all, a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and an overall Happy Holiday Season!



CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick
Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED
(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)
Lunch not required to attend the meeting.
Need a ride? Contact President Lorie Bennett.
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

November 2 – Chapter 1192 Annual Fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund!

Please bring items for the "White Elephant" fundraiser!

Menu: breaded cod, brown/wild rice



December 7 – Members of the Tri-Cities Bells of the Desert will provide a special holiday performance!

Menu: quarter oven-roasted chicken with wild rice



SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, August 31	\$10,073.50
September income	\$ 2,691.13
September expenditures	\$ 3,618.13
Dedicated funds thru September 30	\$ 1,672.00
Balance on hand, September 30	\$ 7,474.50

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

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Cybersecurity ... a BIG issue in today's tech world. Recently, the state announced it "has launched a new website and privacy guide with educational tools to help residents be better informed about cyber privacy, protecting personal information in the digital landscape and state government policies and practices relating to data collection. The guide also provides details about personal information state agencies collect and retain, and information about public disclosure laws. For more information, go to: www.privacy.wa.gov.



And as always, remember, our chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, has meeting minutes, treasurer reports, programs, menus and more!

Director at Large – Steve Howes

A number of factors at the NARFE national, state and local levels are making it necessary for our chapter to make some important decisions regarding our future. As you are aware, NARFE membership at all levels is declining. This trend needs to reverse if NARFE is to remain a viable and effective organization.



At the recent national convention, delegates voted to make chapter membership optional and to change NARFE's voting to one member, one vote, regardless of chapter affiliation. When new members join NARFE, they will have the option of just joining without joining a chapter. Renewing members can also make the same decision, that is, to remain in a chapter or to opt out of chapter membership. As you can see, this has the potential to make it even more challenging for local chapters to recruit and retain new members.

Locally, our Chapter 1192 has a devoted core group of members. However, those who attend regular monthly meetings are almost exclusively retired federal employees. Having luncheon meetings makes it difficult for active federal employees to attend. Further, despite little input from chapter members and/or offers to arrange for a presentation or speaker, the chapter's executive board continues to work to come up with interesting meeting programs. And with the end of the calendar year approaching, we will be asked if we wish to continue our working arrangement with the Columbia Center Red Lion and/or continue with business as usual.



Considering the above, I think we need to ask ourselves a few important questions:

Are we really serious about attracting new members including those who may be current federal employees?

If so, this might require changing meeting times, format and location, at least for some meetings. We have recruited a number of new members over the past few years; but, how many have come to meetings and continued their memberships?

Do we want to continue primarily as a social organization or do we want to focus our meetings solely on issues important to retired and active federal employees? Many of our meetings deal with topics unrelated to NARFE's stated mission. That is certainly fine, but should the focus be more mission oriented?

There are a number of options we could consider to address the above questions:

- ◆ Reduce the number of meetings (e.g., eliminate the June and September meetings; have quarterly meetings).
- ◆ Schedule a combination of day and evening meetings. This may help to attract active federal employees.
- ◆ Schedule a combination of social and mission-oriented meetings (e.g., potlucks or other events that encourage attendance by potential new and/or current members and their families; encourage district and federation officers to attend our meetings and focus on issues important to NARFE). **6458**

These are only a few of several options that could be considered. In any event, some changes will be needed in the future. Your executive board does not want to make any important decisions without input from chapter members. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding how we as a chapter should move forward, please write them down and submit them to one of the board members or send them directly to me at: swhowes19@gmail.com. Board meetings are also open to all members and you may present any of your thoughts during those times.



NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

Curious about NARFE-PAC contributions and where they go? NARFE has reports on its website available to members! To access the reports: 1) Log onto the NARFE website as a member; 2) On the homepage, go to Departments; 3) Click on "Legislation;" 4) Scroll down to the middle of the page and click on the "NARFE-PAC" link; 5) On the NARFE-PAC homepage, click at "Quarterly Reports" at the bottom. There you will find both contribution and disbursement reports. Contribution reports include data by regions, states and chapters. Disbursement reports are by states. Besides reports for the current congressional cycle, there are reports for 2011-2012 and 2013-2014.



WSFC President – Nancy Crosby

I will become the Washington State Federation of Chapters president, November 1. Please know, I will do my best to represent you and our federation.

Rich Wilson, former WSFC president, was elected at the national convention to be the Region IX vice president.

Lanny Ross, who has served as the region's VP for 16 years, opted to not run again. Therefore, according to our federation bylaws, the vice president moves into the president's position.



The federation held its quarterly board meeting at the Tri-City Country Club, Kennewick, September 21-22. Other position changes include: Karol Kusunose (Tacoma chapter) was appointed as the new vice president; Mary Binder (Tri-Cities chapter) will be the new District V vice president; Lorie Bennett (Tri-Cities chapter) will be the new federation Alzheimer's chairman; and, Sam Cagle (Olympia/Timberland chapter) is the new federation NARFE-PAC coordinator.

In her article, page 1, Lorie encouraged all members to vote. I want to also encourage you to vote. It is our opportunity to cast our votes for a new U.S. president; one of our U.S. senators; our representative to the House; 9 state positions, including a governor; local officials; and numerous initiatives. Voting is an opportunity for all of us to express our views.



Staying with voting – delegates at the recent national convention voted on resolutions and amendments to NARFE's bylaws that will require bylaws changes. As NARFE President Richard Thissen emphasized, the changes involve not only the bylaws but a thorough review of many NARFE documents. The 2016 bylaws are projected to be finalized and publicized sometime in early 2017. Once those have been published, our federation bylaws will also need changing, and I expect most chapter bylaws will also need modifying. So, work ahead, and it's not too soon to get started!

Also looking ahead, the federation board approved a \$250 scholarship for all federation members attending the biennial NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, Va., March 12-15. Registration opened October 1; information is on the NARFE website. At this point, the Tri-Cities chapter will have at least 3 members attending.



Finally, looking even further ahead, Region IX will hold a joint Leadership Training Conference at the Three Rivers

Convention Center, Kennewick, June 9-10. The Alaska and Idaho federations will chair the event with support from the Montana, Oregon and Washington federations. More information soon, but mark your calendars now!

Legislative – Mary Binder

As this newsletter is finalized, so is this election season, for all practical purposes. So, what's next with Congress in session November 14 for most likely just a short time?

The "continuing resolution" passed on September 29 to keep the government funded at current levels expires December 9. Will there be another "CR?" Stay tuned.

Will there be a fix for those "not held harmless" by the Social Security law that would save them from a significant increase in Medicare Part B premiums? NARFE's Legislative Action Center has a letter on this issue to send to our elected officials. Again, stay tuned.

The November and December *narfe* magazines have/will have information about the FEHBP plans and important information you need to know in making decisions.

And a state-level initiative that we'll be monitoring – "a city initiative that would levy an income tax on Olympia residents whose household income exceeds \$200,000. Would this be a stepping stone to a statewide income tax? Once again, stay tuned!

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

November is NARFE's Alzheimer's month and our chapter will be having its annual white elephant fundraiser. Again this year, we will sell tickets that can be placed in a bag for each item. The more tickets you put in a bag, the more chances you have to win that item when the winning ticket is drawn. Also, if there is something unique or interesting about your item/s, please write it down so we can advise the bidders. Again, **please bring an item, or more, to donate, plus cash or a check!** If you cannot attend the meeting, below is a donation form you can complete and mail to me. Thank you! **0380**

Support Alzheimer's Research Fund

Enclosed is my NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund contribution of \$ _____

**END
ALZ**

Name _____,
Chapter 1192

Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Your charitable contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Alzheimer's Association will send you a receipt for your contribution.

Make check payable to: **NARFE – Alzheimer's Research**

Mail to: William Darke, NARFE Chapter 1192 Alzheimer's Chairman, 210 Somerset Street, Richland, WA 99354-1964



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Veterans Day — November 11

Observance: Veterans Day is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the U.S. in all wars, particularly living veterans.

History: On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was commemorated for the first time. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the day should be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory.” (Source: www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/veterans-day)



Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome! Ted Boyce; Thomas Ferns; Russell Warren

Welcome Back! Lynn Jones; Helen Speer

Dues Withholding: Ted Boyce

FEHBP Update: We had a NARFE table at the October 19 health fairs, Federal Building and Stevens Center, Richland. We distributed about 25 membership packets, got 2 new members and a reinstatement.



Retirees! Remember dues withholding – only \$3.67/monthly from your annuity. This saves you money, that is only \$44.04/annually vs. \$50.00, and saves you from getting dues reminders.

If you have questions, call me, 509.375.0739, or send an email at, caylorx2@aol.com.

Hidden Numbers: September/October newsletter numbers belonged to: Al Lake; Yvonne Sherman; Mel Wicks. Sorry, no takers! Find 3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of your NARFE number.**

Find it, call me, 509.375.0739, or let me know at a meeting, and you, too, can win!



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

With the “snowbirding” season upon us, please remember to keep the chapter updated with address and/or phone number changes. This helps our callers, and helps with mailings such as the newsletter. Thank you. Should you need, my contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304; email: pgriff.fisher@gmail.com.**

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Member Howard House passed away recently, as did his wife. Also passing away: Evie Norman, a former member (her husband, Wes, passed away earlier this year); Pat Turner’s brother, CD Hooker; Jeanie Polehn’s husband, Richard; Jack Rhoades’ sister, Sara Lou Rhoades Roelen Anderson (also a former member)

Thinking of You Wishes to Steve Howes; Mr. & Mrs. Eberhart Reimers; Nancy Carr

Reminder: Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.

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

Reminders!

September 1 thru December 31!
NARFE awards recruiters \$10 for each new member & their names are entered into a grand prize drawing once for each new member.

During 2016!
The Washington State Federation of Chapters will give chapters \$20 for each new chapter member recruited.

November 14 thru December 12!
FEHBP Open Season



IT’S TIME!
Are you prepared for winter? Is your car?