



REMINDER! Bring items, cash/checkbook for White Elephant Auction! See page 3.

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

2016 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 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, Bob Stewart | 509.531.3118 |
| Alzheimer's, Larry Williams | 509.783.8554 |
| Legislative, Mary Binder | 509.585.1393 |
| Membership, Johanna Caylor | 509.375.0739 |
| NARFE-PAC, Bob Stewart | 509.531.3118 |
| 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 2017, Issue 6

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Hopefully by the time this newsletter goes to press, our Chapter 1192 will have a signed 2018 contract with the Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center. Meetings with Catering Manager Felicia Hubbard and Chef Kyle Thornhill have been beneficial for the chapter and the hotel.



As presented and discussed at the chapter's October meeting, our lunches will increase to \$18 AND still include a dessert! To note, our chapter has been very fortunate to not have had a lunch price increase in 3 years! But, with the increases in labor and food, as Kyle explained at the October meeting, increases do get passed on to the customer.

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

Please bring items for the "White Elephant" fundraiser!

Menu: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies



December 6 – Holiday program to be determined.

Menu: roasted pork/potatoes, onion glaze, veggies



SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance forward, August 31 | \$10,747.22 |
| September income | \$ 560.89 |
| September expenditures | \$ 710.89 |
| Dedicated funds thru September 30 | \$ 1,081.00 |
| Balance on hand, September 30 | \$ 9,516.22 |

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

Elections for chapter officers will be at our November meeting with installation at the December meeting. Elected positions are: president; 1st vice president; 2nd vice president; secretary; treasurer; and, 2 directors at large. Chairmen such as for Alzheimer's, NARFE-PAC, service officer, membership and public relations are appointed by the president. **5241**

The chapter needs new faces on our board of directors. Many current members have served for many years and need a break. The lack of leadership is now a national NARFE problem. Many chapters have closed or are closing for this very reason, including 3 in our Washington State Federation of Chapters. **Let's not let this happen to our chapter!**



Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to all! Enjoy and be safe!



Merry Christmas

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Cybersecurity ... it remains a BIG issue in today's tech world. So, as a reminder the state "has a 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!

1st Vice President – Pat Turner

Again this year, the chapter will have volunteers staffing the coat check at the 39th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, November 11, Three Rivers Convention Center. The volunteer schedule is set.



Thank you, volunteers! As in past years, donations received will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. This is also a great outreach and networking opportunity! **2775**

WSFC President – Nancy Crosby

As we near the end of the year, we have a lot to consider that will have impact on our benefits, including insurance and retirement issues. It is imperative to keep abreast of the legislative issues that affect our earned benefits, both for retirees and current federal employees. Your NARFE National legislative department sends updates on issues and requests to contact your legislative representatives to voice your concerns and opinions. So, a recommendation! Ensure you are signed up to receive information from the national office.

We have just received the information on our FEHB programs and premiums for 2018. Please review the information closely. Decisions are individual, based on your needs and/or that of your family.

REMEMBER, you must make a decision during **open season, November 13 to December 11**, if you wish to make any changes. For more details,



go to the Office of Personnel Management website: www.opm.gov/insure.

Your Washington State Federation of Chapters board is working hard to retain our members and support our chapters. However, due to lack of members stepping up to fill the needed chapter leadership positions, 3 of our state chapters will be closing soon. We hope those chapter members will elect to transfer to a nearby chapter, but if they do not, the federation will assign them to a chapter.



Next, please carefully read your dues renewal letter and ensure you pay your chapter dues. If you do not renew as a chapter member, you are automatically moved to the national (only) member category.

Want to avoid worrying about renewals? If so, I encourage you to sign up for dues withholding. To note! Your chapter offers a \$15.00 stipend when you sign up for dues withholding.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and that your holidays are filled with family and friends.

WSFC District V VP – Mary Binder

All 3 district chapters – Tri-Cities Chapter 1192; Walla Walla Chapter 237; and, Yakima Chapter 238, have been meeting monthly this fall. However, the Walla Walla chapter will be closing at the end of the year because there is no one to fill required leadership positions. As WSFC President Nancy stated above, the federation board is working to support members and chapters, but without members stepping forward to lead a chapter, it cannot remain viable. We look forward to the Walla Walla members continuing their NARFE membership.

In 2018 – a busy conference year! First, the statewide WSFC conference, May 15-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center, Spokane Valley. Mark the dates!



Then, the NARFE national conference! See dates below.



Legislative – Mary Binder

As expected it is a busy time for Congress. Thank goodness for the NARFE legislative staff and all they are doing for us and to keep us informed. Reflecting back not that many years ago, the monthly *narfe* magazine would have been pretty much our sole NARFE source for legislative information. Now, besides the magazine, the NARFE website and almost daily electronic communications are available. As previously reported, the NARFE Legislative Action Center has a wealth of information, including



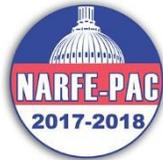
information about our elected officials, easy-to-use ways to contact our elected officials, how to contribute to NARFE-PAC and much, much more.

President Lorie recently wrote, “NARFE [legislative staff] is doing everything it can to protect our pay and benefits. As members we can do our part by contacting our representatives by email or phone.” Maybe a New Year’s resolution if this is something you don’t regularly do?

NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

The third quarter NARFE-PAC reports are now available on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. I’ll provide updates at the November chapter meeting.

NARFE is preparing and advising chapter members to prepare for the 2018 mid-term elections. Candidates are preparing their campaigns. Watch for more details, including PAC fundraising goals.



Federal employees and retirees continue to be targets, whether from the president’s proposed budget and/or proposals in Congress. Examples include:

- ♦ Reducing the government contribution toward federal health insurance.
- ♦ Using the Chained CPI to determine COLAS.
- ♦ Reducing the TSP G Fund rate of return.
- ♦ Increasing federal employee payroll contributions toward retirement by as much as 6 percent.
- ♦ Eliminating the FERS annuity for new hires without an equivalent increase in pay or TSP contribution.
- ♦ Across-the-board federal employee pay freezes.

Clearly, we have our work cut out to prevent or mitigate these proposals from taking effect. Yes, we need to contact our congressional representatives!

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 #135, Richland, WA 99354
Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509.713.7377

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514

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

402 East Yakima Ave., 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://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

825 Jadwin Ave., Stes 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Alzheimer’s Research – Larry Williams

November is NARFE’s Alzheimer’s month and our chapter again will be having its annual white elephant fundraiser. We will repeat the successful auction format from last year – tickets will be sold and members can place them in bags for the items they want.



After the auction closes, a ticket will be drawn from each bag for the winner. It is that easy! **6665**

So, please remember to bring items for the auction, along with cash and/or your checkbook!

Also to help our November fundraiser, chapter members will again be staffing the coat check at the 39th Annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, November 11. Donations will go to our chapter’s November fundraiser for Alzheimer’s Research. See 1st Vice President Pat’s article, page 2.

If you cannot attend the November chapter meeting and want to donate, you can use the below form. Thank you!

Support Alzheimer’s Research Fund

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

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: Larry Williams, NARFE Chapter 1192 Alzheimer’s Chairman, 6401 W. 16th Ave., Kennewick, WA 99338-1484





Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome! Francis Mithoug (from Olympia/Timberland Chapter 236)

Transfer from Chapter 1192 to National Only: Lyle Birch; Barbara Carpenter; John Hamilton; Larry Johnson; Sandra Keating; Kenneth Reeves; Gregory Ruppert

Snowbirds: It is that time of year again! So, a reminder! Please let the chapter know your temporary address and any email changes while you are traveling.

FEHBP Open Season Health Fairs! The fairs were October 11 in our area. Nancy Crosby and Terese Pratt hosted the table at the Social Security Administration office, Kennewick. Sig Preston and I hosted the 3 offices on the DOE Hanford site. We distributed material AND 2 employees signed up as members!



Soon-to-be Retirees and Retirees! Consider dues withholding to renew your NARFE membership! Your \$50 annual dues are reduced to \$44.04 AND you will NOT see a dues reminder again. Further, you send NO money with the dues withholding application. 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: Charles Lee; Robert Long; Ami Sidpara. **Again, 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, and you, too, can win!



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

As Membership Chairman Johanna wrote, “snowbirding” season upon us. Please 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.fisher1@gmail.com.**



Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Congratulations to member Nancy Glaesemann and Chuck Clayton on their recent marriage! Both were at the October chapter meeting.



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. **Needed!** A volunteer to staff the office the first Tuesday, monthly. Contact President Lorie, 509.531.2745.

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 2017!

The Washington State Federation of Chapters will give chapters \$20 for each new chapter member recruited.
November 13 thru December 11!
FEHBP Open Season



On-Demand **WEBINARS, WHITE PAPERS** and **RESOURCES** for NARFE MEMBERS



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