

Reminder: Bring “white elephant” auction items, and cash/checkbook, to November’s meeting!

<u>2019 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members</u>	
President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2nd Vice President, Vacant	
Secretary/Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Bob Stewart	509.531.3118
Alzheimer’s, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.308.6664
NARFE-PAC, Bob Stewart	509.531.3118
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Office, Vacant	
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.586.8232

November – December, Volume 2019, Issue 5

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Welcome fall! Or, should I say welcome winter! As I write this, some days feel like fall and then some like winter. Either way – stay warm, and remember, Santa is on the way!



In September our 2nd Vice President John Cavanaugh asked to step down from his position and as our service officer. A special thank you to John for the time he served and his willingness to serve in these positions.

Every other November is election time in our chapter. A slate of officers is in the box below. Nominations from the membership will also be accepted at the chapter’s November meeting. To note – at its August meeting, the executive board discussed and approved trying to work

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

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

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Lunch: \$18; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Avoid a charge! Cancel reservations you can’t keep!

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

November 6 – Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE

Alzheimer’s Research Fund!

Menu: margarita chicken, roasted vegetable couscous, green beans, dessert

REMINDER! Bring auction items, cash/checkbook.



December 4 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet are returning for a holiday music program!

Menu: roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, green beans, dessert



January 8 – Update on some of PNNL’s current projects/programs! (tentative)

Menu: bacon-wrapped meatloaf, mashed potatoes, chef’s choice of seasonal veggies, dessert

NOTE! Meeting change to 2nd Wednesday!

**2020/2022 Slate of Candidates
for
Chapter Elected Officer Positions**

**President – Pat Turner
Vice President – Nancy Crosby
Secretary – Mary Binder
Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

**Nominations from the membership and elections at the November meeting.
Swearing in at December meeting.**

with just one vice president vs. 2, and no directors at large for the coming year as it is difficult to get members to want to serve in leadership positions. If this is workable, then the chapter’s bylaws will be revised.

My term as your chapter president is coming to an end. However, I will still be around! My tenure as president has been exciting and fruitful. The support from the board of directors and the chapter membership has made my tenure a pleasure. Thank you to all. **5619**

If you have questions about the elections, the positions, are interested in serving in an elected or chairman position, please contact Mary Binder.

1st Vice President – Pat Turner

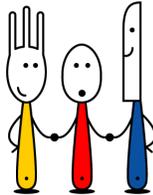
One of my favorite annual events is almost here! Yes, the Tri-Cities Wine Festival. This year's event is Saturday, November 16, Three Rivers Convention Center. Again, this year, chapter volunteers will



staff the coat check. Donations received will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Interesting in helping? Contact me!

Director-at-Large – Nancy Crosby

Starting in January, our lunch cost will be \$20 vs. \$18 due to increases in wages and food costs. This is the first increase in 2 years. The 2020 menu is also being revised. Expect familiar favorites and some new options, too. The menu will be posted on the chapter website.



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

Besides having chapter elections, fall is also the time for working on the chapter's budget for the new year. I have been doing that and discussing income and expenses with the board. Keeping in mind that a budget is "an estimate of income and expenditure for a set period of time," according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, we do have a "working draft" the board will review again at its January board meeting.



WSF President – Nancy Crosby

The 2020 Washington State Federation (WSF) Biennial Conference is scheduled for May 19-21, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Seattle North, Lynnwood. The WSF Executive Board has approved a \$50 "scholarship" for each federation member who attends the conference to help offset individual costs. This will be reflected on the registration form. Watch for registration information and other details after the first of the year on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.



Prior to the WSF conference, there will be an election of officers for 2020-2022. Candidates for all 4 elected positions are needed – president, vice president, secretary and treasurer! The WSF Nominating Committee is finalizing instructions and forms. Watch for details by November 15. Information and forms will also be on the WSF website along with an announcement in a future *narfe* magazine.

Next, a reminder about NARFE's biennial national conference, **FEDcon20**, Westin Kierland, Scottsdale, Ariz., August 30 – September 1.

(See photo, right, from the Westin's website.) The room rate is \$115/plus tax; other details will be on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, in early 2020. At its December 12 meeting, the WSF Executive Board will discuss possible "scholarships" for federation members who attend.



Also on the NARFE website – the 2019 NARFE Referendum results. All bylaws amendments passed by at least 89%; however, only 9.04% of NARFE's 195,317 members voted. While this still reflects a low percentage, it is an improvement from 6.77% for the 2018 NARFE elections. The challenge is to continue to encourage our members to vote, whether for chapter, WSF or NARFE national elections!



The annual Federal Employees Health Benefits program open season is upon us – November 11 to December 9. There is information in the November *narfe* magazine; a link to the 2020 rate charts is on the NARFE website, www.narfewa.org; and, details are on the OPM website, opm.gov/healthcare-insurance. **3905**

And, remember the November NARFE webinars on health plans! (See schedule below.) The webinars are a way to get additional information and ask questions, besides being another free NARFE membership "perk."

NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinars

November 7 – *The Pros and Cons of Consumer-Driven Health Plans*

November 21 – *Health Plans – What's Your Best Option?*

December 12 – *Estate Planning for Feds – Protect Your Assets*

Webinars are at 2 p.m., Eastern Time
(Past webinars "on demand" at: www.narfe.org)

2020 NARFE Photo Contest
August 1, 2019 – April 7, 2020
Theme: "Home Sweet Home – What it Means to You"
See: "Special Programs," www.narfe.org



Legislative/Public Relations – Mary Binder

In the last newsletter I wrote that summer had been anything but quiet on the legislative and election fronts, and that one can only imagine what fall brings. Oh, my, what a challenging fall legislative season this has been!

So, rather than try to summarize what has been happening, my recommendation is to continue to follow key legislation and information pertinent to current and retired federal employees in the monthly *narfe* magazines. For example, in the November issue is the updated “NARFE Bill Tracker” and an article titled “The Hatch Act Explained.” Then, too, for those who receive NARFE’s electronic updates, remember the new weekly *NewsLine* – a “newsletter that goes out to NARFE members on Tuesdays and includes weekly recaps of legislative news, compiled by NARFE’s advocacy and communications teams.”



Speaking of legislation, NARFE has issued an “Action Alert!” for the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act. This act “would reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) by changing the Social Security benefit calculation for WEP-affected beneficiaries. The WEP harms nearly 2 million local, state and federal retirees by reducing their earned Social Security benefits.” Go to NARFE’s Legislative Action Center on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, “to send your members of Congress a personalized message urging them to support the bill and provide relief for those affected by the WEP.” Reminder...squeaky wheels are heard!



Looking ahead – with only a 1.6% COLA in the forecast, health benefits increases averaging 4% affecting many of us and then the current political climate, 2020 could be challenging. So, our NARFE membership is more important than ever as there is strength in numbers!



NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

Hot off the press – the 3rd quarter PAC reports! The reports are on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. After logging in as a member, you can find the reports under “Departments” on the NARFE homepage and then “Advocacy.” So, what do they show ...

Between 2nd and 3rd quarters our WSF members contributed almost \$10,000 bringing the 9-month total since January 1 to \$25,081. Chapter members

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., Suites 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

contributed more than \$600 during the 3rd quarter. Of the 17 WSF chapters, our chapter was 5th in the number of contributors, 7th in total contributions but 2nd in sustainers. Yes, positive news, but I believe we can and need to do even better. In fact with only \$3 contributed at the chapter’s October meeting, I know we can do better!

Regarding sustainers, worth noting is that Washington ranked 1st of the 5 states in our region (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) and 2nd of all 50 states and territories! Yes, 2nd. Impressive!

As for PAC distributions to our state’s elected officials or candidates, Derek Kilmer (D-06) has received \$6,000 and Denny Heck (D-10) \$3,500. Interestingly, of the \$10,000 maximum during a 2-year congressional cycle to those who request PAC dollars, Representative Kilmer is 1 of only 6 elected officials nationwide who has received \$6,000 or more. That reflects positively on his support to NARFE and its mission. **7840**

Alzheimer’s Research – Larry Williams

Success! Chapter members raised \$450 in support of the Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The

funds remain local but the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund will get credit for the amount raised. With 7 chapter members registered, we more-than doubled last year’s registrations! Four members did the walk. Now, a new goal for next year – double the number of registrations! Thanks for all the support!

REMINDER! Bring “white elephant” items, cash/ checkbook to the November chapter meeting!



Return Service Requested

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



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

The 2019 NARFE Fall Membership Drive is in full swing! Members receive \$10 for each new NARFE member they recruit, and are eligible for monthly prizes and for a grand prize. Rules are at: www.narfe.org/recruit.



Our area's fall health fairs were in October. We had a NARFE table at Walla Walla and Tri-Cities locations where there were healthcare providers. A special thank you to Liz Bowers and Sig Preston for assisting me. I couldn't have done it without them!

At press time, we have 5 confirmed new members from the fairs: Dan Bryson; Ronald Ciola; Kelly Cowden; Albert Kruger; and Patty Strange. Welcome to all!

If you missed the fairs and have questions, you may find the answers in the fall *narfe* magazines, through a NARFE webinar or on the OPM website. See WSF President Nancy's article, page 2, for more details.



NARFE's new Associated Management System (AMS) is still a work in progress. It is primarily for reports. During the transition period, it is possible that a member has paid dues, made changes to their records, etc., that are not yet recorded. If you have questions, please contact me.

Hidden Numbers: September/October newsletter: John Bowles; Katherine Hintzen; Theresa Sannar.

CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS !

Chapter "callers" are experiencing numerous wrong numbers when trying to call local members about monthly meetings. If you haven't been receiving your calls, or if you want to be added to the notification list, please call me!



Reminder – to guarantee a lunch, reservations MUST be made by the Sunday evening prior to the meeting. So, if your caller leaves a message, PLEASE return the call, or call me.

Contact: Darleen Wall
Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.

No calls; no winners. Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits, your NARFE membership number.**

Call me, 509.308.6664, email me, annahojx2@gmail.com, or let me know at a meeting, and you, too, can win \$5!



Snowbirds! Don't forget to let us know of USPS or email changes! Keep us in the loop. Help us help you stay connected with us!



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the September/October newsletter:

Condolences: to member Ellen LeVee on the passing of her husband/member Al Walker.

Thinking of you to: Lorie Bennett; Nancy Crosby; Carl Gallion; Faye Vlieger

Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me or email me:

einvlieger@aol.com.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Check the chapter website for chapter election updates, meeting programs, menus, minutes and more: www.narfe1192.org.