

**Important! November and December chapter meetings will be “virtual!” Details: pages 1 and 2.**

**2020 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members**

<b>President,</b> Pat Turner	509.539.5659
<b>Vice President,</b> Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
<b>Secretary,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Treasurer,</b> Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer’s,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator,</b> Darleen Wall	509.586.8232
<b>Legislative,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Membership,</b> Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC,</b> John Wetterling	509.545.8016
<b>Newsletter,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations,</b> Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer,</b> Vacant*	
<b>Sunshine,</b> Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster,</b> Larry Williams	509.783.8554

\*For assistance, call Nancy Crosby or Mary Alice Binder.  
See their numbers, above.

**CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

**Update! As this newsletter was finalized, there are no scheduled in-person chapter meetings. The board is hosting “virtual” Zoom chapter meetings each first Wednesday. See VP Nancy’s article, page 2. Updates will be in future newsletters, in email notices, from the chapter’s callers and on the chapter’s website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).**

**November 4** – Erica Grissmerson, Walk to End Alzheimer’s local area manager, will recap the October walk and results, and provide an Alzheimer’s update.

**December 2** – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will again provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice – yes, this will be a virtual performance during the chapter’s Zoom meeting!



**Note: Both the November and December meetings will be “virtual.” Chapter members with email addresses on file will be notified. More details in VP Nancy’s article, page 2.**

**November – December, Volume 2020, Issue 6**

**Chapter President – Pat Turner**

Season’s Greetings! Brrrr, how quickly summer left us and fall arrived. If you were putting off your winter preparations, it is definitely time to complete them!



Next, looking back, the chapter had successful “virtual” Zoom meetings in September and October, including excellent guest speakers! I encourage you to join us for these virtual meetings, which will continue at least through December. The chapter’s officers and board members are continuing to monitor state and local guidance regarding meetings, and we remain in touch with the Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, Kennewick, regarding when we might be able to resume in-person meetings. We’ll continue to provide updates in future newsletters, through our callers and emails for those with email addresses on file, and on our chapter’s website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). (See VP Nancy’s article, page 2, for more details.)

Our chapter board is also continuing to solicit your ideas and suggestions for how to continue to keep our chapter viable and members connected. You are the success of our chapter. Please feel free to contact me, or any board member, with your ideas and suggestions.

Election time is upon us. Some members will be happy with the results, others will not; but despite the results, I am confident we will still be able to work together and remain focused on what NARFE is doing for us. **8502**

Again this year, retirees can participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign. Contributions can be made until January 15 through an annuity deduction, credit/debit card or e-check. Details at [GiveCFC.org](http://GiveCFC.org).



Finally, while the holidays will be different for many of us this year, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable season. And, my safety message – mask up, family first!



## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

As announced on page 1, our chapter's November and December meetings will continue to be "virtual" on Zoom as we still cannot meet in person. I will send an email message to all chapter members on my email distribution prior to the meetings as a reminder. You will then need to let me know if you want to receive an invitation to participate. I will then send you the log-on link and instructions prior to the meeting.



**Reminder! Members with desktop, laptop, smartphone or tablet capabilities can participate. If you do not have an email address on file with NARFE, please give me a call at 509.735.3288, or send me an email at [ncrosby2b@charter.net](mailto:ncrosby2b@charter.net).**

## Service Office – Nancy Crosby

Need to contact OPM online and cannot find your CSA number? A suggestion! Look on your last "Statement of Annuity Paid," or "Statement of Survivor Annuity Paid," which are mailed annually. Your claim number is on the form. The number is required to make inquiries and/or changes on the OPM website, [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov).

Please continue to feel free to call me if I can be of assistance. When calling, please leave a message and I will return the call.

**REMINDER!**  
**FEHB Program Open Season**  
**November 9 through December 14**

This year's annual Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season runs November 9 through December 14. It is the time when federal employees and retirees can enroll, change, suspend or cancel federal benefits coverages applicable to the 2021 plan year. Besides information in the October *narfe* magazine, the November *narfe* has an "Open Season Report," beginning on page 40. Need personalized assistance? Contact a NARFE federal benefits specialist – by email, [fedbenefits@narfe.org](mailto:fedbenefits@narfe.org), or phone, 800.456.8410.

Further, with COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no in-person health fairs, but providers are offering numerous online opportunities to get information. Also, Spokane Chapter 32 is hosting a Zoom meeting Monday, November 9, 11:30 a.m., with Ann Ozuna, a federal retirement specialist. Ann will discuss changes in health plans for 2021. Tri-Cities chapter members have been invited to attend! Contact Secretary Mary Binder, 509.378.2494, if you want to join this meeting.

NARFE also has 2 scheduled webinars that will provide FEHB plan information. These webinars are free to

NARFE members, and available on the NARFE website under the Federal Benefits Institute if you cannot view them live. November webinars:

**Thursday, November 12, 2 p.m., ET, "Which FEHB Plan is Right for You?"** Presenter James Marshall will discuss some simple steps feds and retirees can take during Open Season to determine whether their current plan is the best one to keep.

**Thursday, November 19, 2 p.m., ET, "So Many Choices: Which FEHB Plans Work Best with Medicare A & B?"** Presenter Tammy Flanagan will take an in-depth look at how FEHB plans coordinate with Medicare and review your best coverage options.

Then in December, and switching topics, **Thursday, December 10, 2 p.m., ET, "Estate Planning: Strategies for Feds."** Presenter Mark Keen, CFP, will discuss what constitutes an effective estate plan, as well as tools and strategies to help federal employees and retirees ensure their money goes to their beneficiaries of choice without unnecessary expense, headache and taxes.

## WSF President – Steve Roy

As I reported in your chapter's last newsletter, a committee of WSF leaders from across the state was reviewing the federation's current 5-district structure and the district VP job description. The last review was in 2012. The committee submitted its report at the September 30 WSF Executive Board's virtual meeting.



With several WSF chapters now closed, the alignment of chapters and districts needed rebalancing. The committee recommended reducing the number of WSF districts to 3. It also recommended establishing an assistant district VP position to assist each district VP because of the great distances between the chapters, especially in Central and Eastern Washington. The assistant will be from a different chapter than the VP. The changes are effective January 1.

The current DVPs, who were elected in 2018, will continue to serve during the transition period. They are: Mary Binder for the new District I, combining the current Districts I and V; John Wells for District II; and, Bea Bull for the new District III, combining the current Districts III and IV. (Current District I and III VP positions are vacant.)

The next WSF board meeting is Wednesday, December 9, 10 a.m. It will again be a virtual GoToMeeting. Register at: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org). All are welcome!

Lastly, a thank you to Rich Wilson, our Region IX VP the past 4 years. His term ends December 31. We'll be welcoming VP Linda Silverio effective January 1. **9545**

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

Success! Two “firsts” – the chapter’s participation in the Senior Times Expo, October 20, and which was a drive-thru event for the first time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Seniors picked up free “goody bags” with vendor items and information at the 2-way drive-thru set up at the Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. A thousand bags were distributed either at the event or at local senior-living facilities!



A fall and spring event from the *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* and its *Senior Times*, the day-long Expo is normally an opportunity for seniors to meet and talk with reps from businesses and services such as health providers, care facilities and financial institutions. Businesses and organizations that participated, including our Tri-Cities chapter, are featured in the 2020 *Senior Times Expo Vendor Showcase*, a special supplement to the October *Senior Times* newspaper. The chapter’s “goody bag” handout was the ad as seen in the special supplement along with a few red, white and blue Jelly Belly candies!

## Legislative – Mary Binder

A new federal government fiscal year started October 1, and this year’s election results will soon be behind us. However, as noted in “Lame-Duck Period is Crucial for NARFE Advocacy,” November *narfe* magazine, page 8, “... appropriations and many other important issues remain to be resolved during the lame-duck session of Congress.”



So, NARFE’s advocacy team will remain busy advocating for us on everything from legislation that would increase the COLA announced October 13 from 1.3% to 3% to the repeal of GPO/WEP. We need to help the team help us by contacting our legislators regarding legislation that will impact us. NARFE’s Legislative Action Center, at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), is “a one-stop site to send a letter to Congress, and more. Questions? Contact me.



## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

Great news! NARFE achieved its 116th Congress fundraising and disbursement goals in the 7th quarter of the 2-year cycle! As Ross Apter, NARFE’s political associate, stated in the October 22, *NARFE-PAC Newsletter*, “... it’s clear member enthusiasm for NARFE-PAC is up.”

As of September 30, NARFE members had given \$2,108,250 to NARFE-PAC. The goal was \$1,750,000.

## 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

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>

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

Disbursements to elected officials or candidates was \$1,366,500. The goal was \$1,250,000. And, members had attended 111 fundraisers, exceeding the 110 goal. **2515**

On the home front, as a chapter, state and region, we continue to do well. Our chapter remained ranked in the middle of the state’s 16 chapters, but the state and our region rank in the top 10 nationally for total contributors, sustainers and amount given! Considering we are not the largest state or region, these results show our members strong support to NARFE-PAC! Thank you to all. Please continue your support, and let’s see if our chapter can move up from the middle among our state’s chapters.

## Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

Yes, the October 11, local Walk to End Alzheimer’s was different this year with most individuals doing their own walks; but, I am pleased to report our chapter had a team – Mary Binder; Chuck Clayton; Pat Turner; John Wetterling; and, me. We did our walks individually and raised more than \$400. The money stays local, but counts toward NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research Fund goal.



Yes, donations are still being accepted! November has typically been the chapter’s primary fundraising month; but, with no “White Elephant” auction at the chapter meeting and no donations from the coat check we’ve staffed at the annual Tri-Cities Wine Festival, fundraising is more challenging. Please consider a donation and help NARFE reach its \$14M goal by year end. Make checks payable to “NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund,” put “Chapter 1192” in the memo line, and mail to: Lorie Bennett, NARFE Region IX Alzheimer’s Chairman, 4310 S. Kingwood St., Kennewick WA 99337-5706. Thank you, and watch for updates in the monthly *narfe* magazine.



## Return Service Requested

### NARFE

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



### Treasurer – Liz Bowers

A quick update! As of October 1, the chapter had spent a mere \$40 more than we had received in funds, primarily due to not having in-person meetings or providing “scholarships” to members attending conferences. Looking to 2021, the budget will be very similar to this year’s. More updates at our virtual meetings, and in the next chapter newsletter.

**Budget**

### Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

**To ponder ...** recently, I reviewed statistical information on the NARFE elections. The good news, at 15.02%, our chapter ranked 4th of the state’s 16 chapters in percentage of members who voted. However, this means that only 35 of our 233 members chose to vote. I truly hope we can do better in the next election!

**Distinguished Members:** Carl Gallion; Julie Goeckner; J.L. Polehn; Gary Rosenwald; Diana Santos; Thomas Serface. (DMs have at least 20 years NARFE membership; they will receive certificates, cards and pins.)

**Reinstated:** Judy Hames; Marjorie Parker ... welcome back!

**Dues Withholding:** Terese Pratt

**Renewals:** Recent NARFE reports listed 3 dropped members for nonrenewal; 3 members were sent 2nd renewal notices; and, 17 members renewed!

**Hidden Numbers:** September/October numbers belonged to: Roger Freeberg; William White; Paulette Widener. Paulette found hers and donated her \$5! Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits, your NARFE membership number** –

and you can win \$5. Good luck! Call/email me, 509.375.0739, [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com).

**Snowbirds!** Don’t forget to let us know of USPS or



### CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Needed! A caller volunteer starting in late December. Callers make monthly calls to a list of members to provide them information about the next chapter meeting and other pertinent chapter information provided by the coordinator. If you can volunteer, or need more information, please contact me!



**Contact: Darleen Wall**

**Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: [jdwall2@charter.net](mailto:jdwall2@charter.net)**

**Thank you for your support!**

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 chapter members:

Nancy Crosby on the passing of her aunt; Terese Pratt on the passing of her parents (Also, recently, member Evelyn Gier and former member, Mel Shupe, passed away.)

#### Thinking of You/Get Well to members:

Lorie Bennett; Nancy Glaesemann

**Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, [einvlieger@aol.com](mailto:einvlieger@aol.com).**



### Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder! Two websites with a wealth of information – our chapter’s, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org), with minutes, meeting programs, past newsletters, special announcements, and the WSF site, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), with everything from statewide information, including from other chapters, to historical/reference material, the annual *Federation Reporter* newsletter and links to meetings.

