



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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.narfe.org/wa/ Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Reminder! FEHB/PSHB Programs Open Season – November 11 thru December 9. See page 2.

2024 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Vice President, Mary Binder	509.378.2494
Secretary, Debbie Carlson	509.380.7210
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer’s, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.8016
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Nancy Crosby (Acting)	509.735.3288
Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/PROGRAMS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

November 6 – Annual chapter “white elephant”

fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund. **Think about items to bring!** (More info on pages 2 and 4.)

Menu: turkey, stuffing, roll, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, salad, dessert



November 3, Daylight Saving Time ends. Fall back!

December 4 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return with a holiday music program of soft jazz and voice!

Menu: meatloaf, veggie, scalloped potatoes, roll, salad, dessert



*For Chapter and National-Only Members
Outside the Tri-Cities Area!*

You are MOST WELCOME to attend a chapter meeting, including lunch! A RESERVATION IS NEEDED. Please call Nancy Crosby or Darleen Wall by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

November – December, Volume 2024, Issue 6

President – Nancy Crosby

Our chapter’s 2024 meeting year is close to ending. It has been a busy one, including 2 meeting location changes, social activities, several outreach events, and being able to welcome several new members!



Our December 2023 meeting ended more than 30 years of chapter meetings at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick Columbia Center due to pricing issues. So, we started 2024 meeting at the Clover Island Inn, Kennewick; but another change was needed when the Inn was sold. Now, since September, we have been meeting at the CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick. The owners and staff have been welcoming and accommodating. Our meeting location is nice, and roomy! AV equipment is available. Lunches have been good, and we are hoping to keep our \$25/per-person rate in 2025.



We ended our “outside-chapter-meetings-social events for the year by attending a second Dust Devils baseball game, September 7. Twenty chapter members, and some family members, attended. Besides the game, our tickets included a BBQ and special seating. Another fun event!

It started off as a blustery, cloudy day for our area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, John Dam Plaza, Richland, October 19, but the weather did improve as you see in the below photo. Our chapter Alzheimer’s chairman, Larry Williams, has more details, page 4, and

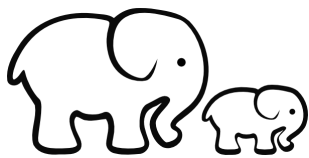


will be posting photos on the chapter website! The, October 24-26 was the NARFE Region IX Symposium, Three Rivers Convention Center. See VP Mary Binder’s recap, page 2.

(Continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1.)



November 5 is Election Day! If you have not already done so, please remember to **VOTE!**



The next day, November 6, is our chapter's annual "white elephant" fundraiser. Proceeds go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Please bring those "elephant"

items you want to contribute. Tickets for items will be \$1/each or \$5/6 tickets. Members drop a ticket or tickets in the bags for items they want. At the end of ticket sales, a "winning" ticket will be drawn from each bag and the donated item awarded to the matching ticket holder. Gravis Law donated a free estate plan for **a silent auction fundraiser item!** A bid sheet will be used for this item. **(Reminder: No weapons. Only cash or check accepted.)** This is always a fun meeting!

Then at December's meeting, holiday entertainment from Jeff Peterson and his muted trumpet. Jeff's holiday program has become a chapter favorite. Be prepared to sing along ... we have some excellent chapter vocalists! Hope you can join us in November and December for our meetings and programs.



Our Tri-Cities chapter is now in its 54th year. Once again this year, we had interesting and informative meeting programs. I am confident we'll be able to do so again in 2025. Suggestions are welcomed!



OFFICE of the INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
SHIBA WASHINGTON STATE

The SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) program announced for the October chapter meeting will be re-scheduled for when the presenter can do an in-person vs. virtual presentation.

Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

The annual open season for making federal health benefits changes is upon us – November 11 thru December 9. **New this year ... open season also for the Postal Service Health Benefits program, which will be the new federal program for ALL postal workers and retirees effective January 1, 2025!**

To help both current and retired federal employees, the chapter hosted a health fair, Richland Public Library, Tuesday, October 22. In advertising the fair, we placed special emphasis on current postal workers. About 20 current federal employees or retirees, and/or spouses, attended. Three healthcare providers attended:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield; GEHA; and Kaiser Permanente. We also had a NARFE table. Many good questions, much good information, and several attendees expressed interest in joining NARFE.



A reminder – the NARFE Open Season Webinar Series is in progress! See page 53, October *NARFE Magazine*, for the November and December schedule. These are FREE to NARFE members and archived on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org/institute, including the Q&A sessions.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

By the time you read this article, the NARFE Region IX Symposium, October 24-26, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, will be history. More than 50 NARFE members/guests registered with all 5 Region IX states represented –



Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

(Note: With 9 member registrations, the Tri-Cities chapter had more than any other Region IX chapter!)

Major healthcare providers were represented with reps talking with attendees, but also participating in a panel Q&A session conducted by Oregon Federation President Ruthann Couch during a working lunch. Providers were: aetna; BlueCross/Blue Shield; GEHA; GEHA/United Healthcare Care Advantage; Kaiser Permanente; and United Healthcare. Other businesses represented were: Brookdale Senior Living; Ciel Senior Living of Tri-Cities; and Edward Jones (Prosser). Jeff Peterson with his muted trumpet provided Friday's banquet entertainment!

NARFE President William Shackelford added the event to his "in-person" travel schedule to provide a NARFE update, while other NARFE staff provided updates virtually. Also on the agenda were training and information sessions covering several topics, including: accessing one's profile on the NARFE website; getting NARFE reports; reporting a member's death; and, updates on FEDHub, the NARFE website and the new NARFE microsites. Region IX VP Steve Roy prepared an overall regional update as did the 5 federation presidents for their states. VP Steve, the 5 presidents and WSF Service Officer Charlie Caughlan and his bagpipes, coordinated "Remembering our Members" to reflect on members who have passed.

Thank you to all who attended or supported in any way ... big or small. You made the Symposium happen!

Public Relations – Mary Binder

It has been a busy couple of outreach “out-and-about” months! Here is a recap:

- ◆ **September 10** – Meet and Greet the Candidates, sponsored by the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. A good opportunity to interface with candidates and attendees, including a couple of future possible chapter meeting program speakers.
- ◆ **September 12** – 29th Annual Community Senior Picnic, HAPO Center. The chapter had a NARFE table – a first! A well-attended event with 60 vendors and 425 tickets sold. **Save the date, September 18, for next year’s picnic, same location!** Hope more chapter members can join me.
- ◆ **September 19** – a presentation at the CNS Cares monthly luncheon. Critical Nurse Staffing, LLC, focuses on “home health care and claims assistance for former Hanford site workers.” Although no NARFE members/potential members at the meeting, I found the attendees interested in learning about NARFE and what we do. They had good questions.
- ◆ **September 20** – I was again able to attend the Washington Policy Center’s annual Eastern Washington dinner at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane. It was interesting to meet/greet a number of Tri-Cities area residents!
- ◆ **September 23** – Another first! I attended the NARFE Hermiston, Oregon, chapter meeting in Irrigon. The chapter is small but does meet monthly. Chapter President Colleen Hewes and her husband were registered to attend the Region IX Symposium. Members had questions about healthcare changes, legislation and the Symposium.
- ◆ **September 24** – President Nancy attended the ATHENA Award luncheon during the Tri-Cities annual Women in Business Conference. She made a number of good contacts, including with Gravis Law, the October chapter meeting program!
- ◆ **October 3** – annual Elected Leaders Reception, The Reach Museum. Good opportunity to talk with Congressman Dan Newhouse (Photo, right) and 2 staff members about NARFE issues.
- ◆ **October 15** – the fall Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick. About 100 vendors and 600 attendees. Good networking and time with prospective members. Thank you to volunteers: President Nancy; and to chapter members Nancy Pochert and Janice Lake. **The Spring Expo is Tuesday, April 16!**



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 #130, Richland, WA 99354

Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509.713.7377

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0238

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

402 East Yakima Ave., Suite 420, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509.453.7462; Fax: 509.453.7731

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.3441; Fax: 202.228.0514

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

825 Jadwin Ave., Suites 206, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

- ◆ **October 19** – the annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. (See articles/photos, pages 1 and 4.)
- ◆ **October 22** – chapter-sponsored health fair. (See article/photo, page 2.)
- ◆ **October 23** – monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon. Program: Will We Have Enough Power for the Future of the Ti-Cities?
- ◆ **October 24-26** – Region IX Symposium. See page 2.

Yes, a busy couple of months! Looking ahead to 2025, these “outreach” activities continue and include, hopefully, some new additions. Reminders:

- ◆ The annual CFC campaign began September 1 and ends January 15. Details at: givecfc.org/donors.
- ◆ Coming by mid-November, applications for the 2025/2026 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program (for high school seniors related to NARFE members who plan to attend college in 2025.) Go to: www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships.



Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

Congress was out of session during October but will be back in session after the November 5 election. NARFE is closely tracking H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act (the repeal of GPO/WEP), which is projected to be on the House floor for a vote in November. Stay tuned!

The PAC reports for the quarter ending September 30 are just being released. A quick look once again has our Region IX leading NARFE’s 10 regions in “mean” average. Thank you to all who have and are contributing!

A Reminder: NARFE is political but non-partisan.



Return Service Requested

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



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At the October chapter meeting, I reported September and October chapter financials: September, \$21,349.90; October, \$21,218.71.

The chapter board will be reviewing a draft 2025 budget at its December 9 meeting; but to all members, please let me know if you have ideas/suggestions for items to include, have questions, etc. If you need a copy of the current chapter budget, please let me know. Thank you!



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Recruiting: As of October, our Tri-Cities chapter had **475** members – **226**/chapter; **249**/national-only in the chapter area. This represents an overall membership decrease of about 40 members since last year at this time. So, let’s talk about recruiting! NARFE’s annual fall membership drives runs thru December 31. The October NARFE Magazine, page 15, has a full page of details with more in an article on page 70. With your help, and our ongoing outreach activities, we can change the downward trend to an upward one!

Dues withholding: Interested in converting or knowing more? Please contact me! This is an easy way for retirees to save money and not worry about renewals!

Snowbirds: Safe travels wherever you are headed! A reminder! Keep us posted on contact information changes! It helps us help you to stay abreast of important NARFE news.

Contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739;
Email: annahjx2@gmail.com.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Help me help you. Have additions or corrections for our chapter website? Let me know. Thank you.



TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR REQUESTS!

To members receiving the printed/mailed copy of our chapter newsletter – if you can switch to an emailed copy, please let me, or your caller know. It will help the chapter save printing and postage costs.



Speaking of callers, 2 chapter members – Alicia Mercado and Verneice Skinner – have volunteered to serve as callers. So, some members will have these new volunteers calling them each month.

No longer want to be called? Let me know. Thank you.
Contact info: Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869;
Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the September/October newsletter)
Member passing: Ruby Ulseth



Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, einvlieger@aol.com.

Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

UPDATE! Our chapter team for the 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland, had 3 walkers – Mary Binder, Janice Lake and me – and, to date, has raised \$350 for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research



Fund. Thanks, too, to Mary, Janice and Johanna Caylor for helping me staff our NARFE table. *(Right)*



REMINDER! White elephant fundraiser, November chapter meeting. Bring items! See page 1 for details.