



Note: NARFE's Call Congress Week, September 16-20. 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

September – October, Volume 2013, Issue 5

2013 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Don Binder	509.585.1393
1st Vice President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.588.1393
NARFE-PAC, Frank Griffin	509.492.4304
Parliamentarian, Mable Rutt	509.943.1812
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Center, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

Chapter Email: narfe1192@gmail.com

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Ballroom D
Lunch: \$14; reservations requested

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary

September 4 – Chapter meeting: bylaws vote!

Program: Jason Mercier, Wash. Policy Center

Menu: Fresh Tilapia Filet w/Vegetables

October 2 – Chapter meeting

Program: Supervisor Tiffney Hill

City of Kennewick Community Services

Menu: Chicken Fried Steak w/Pepper Gravy

Coming in October throughout the Tri-Cities!

Hanford 70th Anniversary Activities

Watch for details in local media outlets.

JULY TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, June 30	\$4,758.78
July income	\$ 299.72
July expenditures	\$ 336.27
Dedicated funds	\$ 968.00
Balance on hand, July 31	\$3,754.23

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

SERVICE OFFICE

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137

Phone: 509.373.9536

Coordinator: 1st VP Lorie Bennett

REMINDERS!

Service Office – We're ready! Fall is upon us and that brings everything from Congress back in session to health benefits open season. Your Service Office has a wealth of information and/or can be a resource for helping with questions – everything from contacting OPM to NARFE. While calls are great, so are personal visits! Still haven't made that 2013 visit? Why not do so soon ... while the weather is still good!



Contacts – if you are contacted by a member, the family member of a NARFE member, a prospective member, or anyone else, about NARFE, retirement or other benefits, etc., please let me know so I can record the information for our Service Office.

[Lorie Bennett: lorieb@clearwire.net]



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

September means our "callers" will be making their annual calls to all members to verify contact information. Even members on the "do-not-call" list for monthly meetings will receive a call. Please help our callers! For example, if you receive a message from a caller, don't forget to return the call. It is important for us to have current postal and email addresses and phone numbers. Thanks!

[Ph: 509.492.4304; email: pgriff1@earthlink.net]



Hospitality Chairman – Carl Gallion

Have lunch menu ideas or suggestions? Let me know. Soon I'll be working with our hotel caterer on our 2014 meeting menus. So, ideas welcome!

Chapter President – Don Binder

With another change of seasons upon us, it is a good time for a look back and then forward. This summer has seen both a high and low. June started with the conclusion of a very successful first-ever Region IX Leadership Training Conference, May 31 and June 1, as our District V VP Nancy Crosby reported in our July/August chapter newsletter. This was a long-time dream of our Region IX VP Lanny Ross. Thanks to the vision and leadership Sandy Cagle, our Washington State Federation of Chapters president, Washington NARFE members took the lead and made the training possible. Despite ill health, Sandy was able to attend the conference.



Our summer low came when we learned that Sandy passed away Saturday, July 13, after almost a year-long battle with cancer. Mary and I, along with a number of other NARFE members statewide, attended her celebration of life. Sandy's husband, Sam, walked us through a very heart-warming synopsis of her life, including their 50 years together. It was a very special commemoration. More details about Sandy's life and her leadership, are in the August, September, October issue of *The Federation Reporter*. Go to: www.narfewa.net.



Vice President Rich Wilson became the Washington federation president, as prescribed in the federation's bylaws. For *The Federation Reporter*, Rich wrote, "Sandy left big shoes to fill." Yes, she did, and I know she'd want us to continue to move NARFE forward and in doing so, help preserve our benefits – whether for current and future federal employees, retirees, or for our spouses.

So now, looking forward to another season, we have work to do. Gaining and maintaining members remain top NARFE priorities. Monitoring proposed Congressional legislation is also critical as is continuing to contact our elected officials to provide them our thoughts and ideas.

This is also the time of year when I ask members to serve on the chapter's nominating committee, which is tasked with finding candidates willing to serve as chapter officers – president, 1st and 2nd vice president, secretary and treasurer. Carl Gallion has agreed to chair the committee. I'll provide more details at the September chapter meeting, but feel free to call, or email Carl, cbgallion@aol.com, if you have questions, and/or are willing to serve in one of the positions.



Finally, if you haven't already done so, please review the revised chapter bylaws included in the July/August chapter newsletter, and on our web site. We'll be voting on them at our September chapter meeting.

1st VP/Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

September 21 – MCBONES Research Center Foundation visit to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth dig.

October 26/27 – CREHST Tombstone Tales night walking trip in the old Richland cemetery.

Signup sheets will be at chapter meetings, or you can contact me.



Have other ideas for activities? Please let me know!

District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Welcome back to your Tri-Cities Chapter 1192, and after a nice WARM summer, at least in this area! There are lots of activities planned for our members; I encourage your participation and support.

In September, I'll be visiting the District V chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – to share any information I can. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. It is so important that you support your chapter and NARFE in general, as we need to continue to work to protect our earned benefits. 1816

Mark your Calendars! 2014 WSFC Convention, May 14-15

Silverdale Beach Hotel
Silverdale, Wash.

Details soon on the
WSFC web site:
www.narfewa.net



I am also planning to attend the WSFC board meeting in Tacoma, September 19. Among the agenda items is an update on the 2014 WSFC Convention.

Sunshine News — Mary Binder

Condolences sent to: Sam Cagle on the passing of his wife/WSFC president, Sandy.

Please continue to let me know about those needing some "sunshine," or even a card for a special anniversary or significant accomplishment. Call, or email me: mary_binder@msn.com.



Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

Did you know the Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death in Washington and the sixth leading cause nationally? Did you know more than 150,000 Washingtonians have Alzheimer's? 3325 Statistics like these are the reason NARFE supports Alzheimer's research through the Alzheimer's Association.

Looking ahead, to help raise funds for this worthy cause – two activities. First, **the Wenatchee chapter has again invited our Tri-Cities chapter to its annual picnic/ Alzheimer's fundraiser, Wednesday, September 11, Rocky Reach Dam Park near Wenatchee.** It is always a fun time with great food. So, hope you can attend!



Then, Chapter 1192 will conduct its annual **“white elephant” auction at our November chapter meeting.** This has proved **a successful and entertaining activity**, and is made possible through the generosity of chapter members and their ability to provide “interesting” items. So, start your hunt for those items. Thank you for your support!



2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

With another chapter “meeting year” beginning, it's a good time for a reminder about our chapter's web site at www.narfe1192.org. It has everything from the chapter newsletter to meeting minutes, treasurer reports and meeting menus. So, another chapter resource for you, and prospective members!



Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

It has definitely not been “summer vacation” for NARFE and its legislative staff. NARFE and many of its members have continued to focus heavily on two key pieces of legislation working their way through the Senate and House. As was in our July/August newsletter article, the proposed “Chained CPI” would impact the way Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) are calculated for ALL federal retirement programs, including Social Security and the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRS payment). The estimate is 0.3 percent per year in reduced COLAS using the “Chained CPI,” which compounded over time, would result in estimated yearly benefits 3 percent lower after 10 years, 6.2 percent after 20 years and 9.4 percent after 30 years.

Contacting our Federal Legislators

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202.225.5816; Fax: 202.225.3251
<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>
2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509.543.9396; Fax: 509.546.1972

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
402 East Yakima Avenue, 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://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>
825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

NARFE's web site has additional information, including a “calculator” for computing the impact to you. 0517



The other bill, introduced by Rep. David Camp (R-MI), chair, House Ways and Means Committee, and presently being considered by a number of House committees, would eliminate the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) for ALL current federal employees. Not only would it impact those still working, but with the much younger workers out of the pool used to set rates for health benefits, retirees would see a significant cost increase no matter what FEHBP plan they chose!

What can we do? Besides short, to-the-point letters with examples of how these bills would impact you, **mark your calendars for NARFE Call-in Week, September 16-20, and reserve time for making calls to our elected officials offices.** Details are on NARFE's web site, www.narfe.org, and watch for GEMS updates. Questions? Feel free to call or email either of us: don_binder@msn.com; mary_binder@msn.com.

NARFE-PAC – Frank Griffin

Yes, a reality – campaigning is now a never-ending process, especially for many in the House. **So yes**, NARFE's had an increase in requests for PAC dollars. **So yes again**, NARFE-PAC remains “part of the solution” to making our voices heard! **So yes once more**, your support is needed! Thank you.





Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

ALL SENIOR PICNIC 

September 19
11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.
TRAC Center, Pasco

Admission Buttons:
\$10/at the door; \$7/in advance
Registration: Area Senior Centers

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome Back: Barbara Wessley

Transferred Out: Donald Duley (#2363/e-chapter)

Dues Withholding: Barbara Wessley; Steven Howes
Retirees! Help yourself and NARFE save money. Use dues withholding! NARFE does not have to send a renewal notice; you save about \$6/year with automatic monthly deductions from your annuity. Also, you'll receive a one-time, \$15 rebate from the WSFC federation/our chapter. Contact me if you need more information and/or the withholding form.

NARFE DUES ANNOUNCEMENT!

Effective October 1, 2013, national dues for all new NARFE members will be \$40.

This is a change from the current \$45, and will be in line with the dues

for new members joining NARFE's "e-chapter."

So, time to recruit, especially our "active" employees!

NARFE Active Federal Employee Members: If you're an AFE "grandfathered" member at the 3 years/\$60 rate, PLEASE don't lose the opportunity to maintain your NARFE membership prior to your RETIREMENT. Once you retire and your renewal comes up, you'll join other retirees and pay \$50/year unless you THEN convert to dues withholding.

Hidden numbers: July/August newsletter hidden numbers belonged to: **Jay Augustenborg; Bill Fuzak; Vicki Melling.** Sorry, no calls so no winners! Three new numbers are "hidden" in both the printed and electronic newsletters – the last 4 digits of a member's number. Contact me; win \$5!

ALWAYS GOOD TO KNOW

NARFE on Twitter! Follow at: @narfehq
Facebook: Log onto Facebook, go to "NARFE National Headquarters," then "Like" NARFE
Toll-Free Number: 800.627.3994;
Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234
OPM: 888.767.6738, "Retirement Info Line;"
www.opm.gov/retire/; or, retire@opm.gov

PROTECT America's Heartbeat Campaign toolkit at NARFE web site: www.narfe.org



NARFE 2015 Calendar Photo Contest

Photo deadline: **February 15, 2014**

Details at: www.narfe.org

Questions: Call 703.838.7760, ext. 268, or email: pubrel@narfe.org

(Note: Due to vendor error, couple members and new members may receive two copies of the 2013-2014 18-month calendar. No additional cost to NARFE.)

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Open Season 2013 November 11 through December 9

In October, FEHBP healthcare vendors will be at various locations throughout the Tri-Cities area.

October 15, DSH-TSA, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

October 16, Federal Bldg., 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

October 16, Stevens Center Bldg., 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Have questions/concerns? Plan on stopping by! More details will be provided at chapter meetings, on the chapter web site, and will be available in the Chapter 1192 Service Office.