



REMINDER! NARFE Membership Recruiting Incentive! See Page 4.

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

2015 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

| | |
|--|--------------|
| President, Lorie Bennett | 509.531.2745 |
| 1st Vice President, Vacant | |
| 2nd Vice President, Larry Williams | 509.783.8554 |
| Secretary, Mary Alice Binder | 509.585.1393 |
| Treasurer, Nancy Crosby | 509.735.3288 |
| Director-at-Large, Steve Howes | 509.851.4913 |
| Director-at-Large, Pat Turner | 509.586.6239 |
| Alzheimer’s, Bill Darke | 509.375.7757 |
| Legislative, Mary Binder | 509.585.1393 |
| Membership, Johanna Caylor | 509.375.0739 |
| NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes | 509.851.4913 |
| 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 |

September – October, Volume 2015, Issue 5

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Welcome to the end of a long, hot summer and the beginning of fall! Now, hopefully, we can look forward to cooler weather and fewer state fires coming our way.

Several members of our chapter board of directors and chapter members attended the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon Wednesday, August 26. Featured speaker was U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse, (R-4). This was his first monthly chamber meeting presentation since taking office in January. Highlights will be an agenda item at our September chapter meeting.



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.

September 2 – Jason Mercier, government reform director, Washington Policy Center, returns to provide an update on the Washington State budget and other issues.



Menu: chicken club sandwich

October 7 – Learn about Junior Achievement from Tamra Meyer, program manager, Junior Achievement of Washington, Southeastern Washington Region.

Menu: chicken pot pie



Our chapter is now a member of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. One of the many benefits is being able to attend the chamber’s monthly luncheons at the member rate, typically, \$20. Please feel free to contact me, or Mary Binder, our chapter public relations liaison, if you have questions and/or want to attend a luncheon. Programs are on the chamber’s website, www.tricityregionalchamber.com

Also at our September meeting, I will be asking members to give a lot of thought to who they would like to nominate for our vacant board position and for other elected positions, or if they could volunteer. And for members not able to attend the meeting, input is still welcome! Director-at-Large Pat Turner is the nominations point of contact. Please contact her if you have suggestions and/or questions. Nominations will be at our October meeting, elections at our November meeting, and installation at our December meeting.

Some NARFE chapters cannot get members to volunteer to serve in elected or appointed chairman positions with some even having to close. Our chapter has been fortunate to have many members “step up to the plate” over its history. I am confident this will continue.

So, I am looking forward to seeing you all as we begin another meeting year! And, remember to note meeting dates on your calendars. **3319**

JULY TREASURER’S REPORT*

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance forward, June 30 | \$11,083.24 |
| July income | \$ 558.71 |
| July expenditures | \$ 231.80 |
| Dedicated funds thru July 31 | \$ 1,492.00 |
| Balance on hand, July 31 | \$ 9,918.15 |

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

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

The data breach at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) continues to be an important issue for many current and retired federal employees. Some chapter members have received



letters from OPM in this regard. Therefore, I want to again emphasize the importance of keeping up on the latest information on this issue. One way to do this is through the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. On the site's home page, is the latest information about the breach. Once on the home page, click on the link for additional information.

With a new chapter meeting year beginning after our July and August "recess," a reminder to check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for everything from chapter newsletters, to meeting minutes, upcoming programs and menus. **0224**

Director at Large – Steve Howes

At our June chapter meeting, I said I would try to keep our members informed regarding NARFE's strategic planning effort. A strategic plan is needed to help guide NARFE into the future and remain a viable organization.

Much of the effort to date has been organizational in nature. A NARFE Strategic Planning Committee has been appointed. It includes regional representatives. The committee has a facilitator; several conference calls and one face-to-face meeting have occurred.

The committee's strategic planning goal is to "ensure and secure the future of NARFE." To do this, NARFE will need to: "a) transform governance to be more efficient, effective, agile, consistent and accountable; b) establish a consistent brand to increase awareness, eliminate confusion and convey the value of NARFE; c) stabilize and grow membership to support effective advocacy and deliver financial stability."

STRATEGIC PLANNING

To gain a better understanding of what has transpired to date, go to NARFE's website, www.narfe.org. There is a link on the member homepage to "Strategic Planning." NARFE's future depends on us understanding and contributing to this process. Open and 2-way communication will be important to the success of the strategic planning effort.

At our local level, I believe our chapter must do whatever it takes to increase our membership, both retirees, current federal employees and spouses.

Operational changes may also be needed. If you have any ideas regarding how we may accomplish this, please contact me or other members of our chapter board.

Director at Large – Pat Turner

Want to know more about serving as a chapter officer or committee chairman? Know someone who might be interested in and willing to serve? Have other ideas/suggestions for filling positions? Please contact me!



District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Now that our chapter's summer break is over, it's time to regroup and focus on membership, both recruiting and retention. We have many tools we can use in NARFE's membership "toolkit." Also, NARFE is again offering the \$10 rebate for each new member recruited from September 1 through December 31. And, our WSFC is again offering a \$20 rebate for each new chapter member recruited in 2015. At our chapter level, we can offer incentives, e.g., a free lunch or free membership drawing.

As President Lorie Bennett wrote in her article, our chapter has joined the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. The networking opportunities are a great way to interact with community businesses and leaders. Membership also provides some discounts. To learn more, contact me or Mary Binder, our public relations chairman.

Mary and I are planning to attend the WSFC executive board meeting in Tacoma, September 3. We'll provide meeting highlights at the chapter's October meeting.

Our 2016 WSFC convention planning will get into full swing soon. District V chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – are hosting. MANY volunteers will be needed both before and during the convention. Also, NARFE is developing a "Sponsorship Support Program." Through the program, affinity partners and other sponsors will be invited to participate in our convention by supplying such things as meals, lanyards, tote bags and other donated items. In turn, they will receive recognition and logo identification. I have signed up to participate in the program for our convention. Please contact me if you are willing to help and/or want to know more details.

2016 WSFC Convention – May 15-17

Three Rivers Convention Center and Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick
Mark your calendars!
Volunteers needed!



Photo from SpringHill Suites website

Legislative – Mary Binder

Congress will be back in session after Labor Day. While members may have been in “recess” during August, that has not meant all has been quiet. Yes, our elected officials have been busy in their states and home districts; but, “work” has continued in D.C. NARFE’s daily media reports highlighting activities attests to that.



CONGRESS

NARFE’s legislative department continues to be an excellent source for the latest congressional actions of concern to current and retired federal employees. Even if you opt not to get electronic updates and/or check the NARFE website, the monthly *narfe* magazine is also a good source for what is happening.

So, looking ahead, NARFE will continue to monitor everything from whether we’ll be receiving a COLA in 2016 to a potential government shutdown to health benefits costs. And, expect requests to contact our elected officials to continue! NARFE has made this a very easy, simple process. **6922**

NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

If you were one of the many millions of Americans who watched the first Republican presidential primary debate recently, you probably picked up on discussions regarding campaign financing. Mr. Trump, for example, was very up front about contributing to past campaigns of both candidates in a particular race to gain influence with the eventual winner. He even implied that he had contributed to the campaigns of a number of the candidates in the debate. Senator Paul accused him of “hedging his bets” in the current presidential race by making contributions to the Clinton Foundation.

While this may not be right or fair, it is apparently all very legal under current campaign finance regulations. You and I as private individuals are limited in the amount we can contribute to political campaigns; and, as federal retirees, we may not have a great deal of disposable income anyway to contribute to such campaigns. As we well know, Congress is always looking with a greedy eye at the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees as a potential source of funds to cover shortages in other areas.

An excellent way to “hedge our bets” as individuals and to get the biggest “return on investment” in terms of protecting our earned rights and benefits is to make contributions to NARFE-PAC. NARFE has a full-time cadre of professional staff who continually monitor

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

pending legislation before Congress and the voting records of each member.

They know who our

supporters are and who could benefit most from our financial assistance. When you make a contribution to NARFE-PAC, you not only help local elected officials who support issues important to us, but also those in other districts and states as well.



Contributions to NARFE-PAC should not be considered a “one-time deal.” The fight to protect our earned rights and benefits is a continuing one and your support is always needed. Therefore, I encourage you to become a “sustainer” – an easy and painless way to contribute.

Alzheimer’s Research – William Darke

NARFE is making progress toward its \$12 million goal by its August 2016 national convention. As of June 30, the total was \$11,419,286, so NARFE is well on its way.

Of concern, however, is that the total raised this year is down from 2014; but as reported, NARFE membership also is down. So, a possible contributing factor.

Looking ahead, at our November chapter meeting we will again have our annual Alzheimer’s “white elephant” fundraiser. Needed – items for the fundraiser! Start thinking about what you want to donate. Also, our format is changing this year to speed things up a little.



2016 NARFE Photo Contest August 1, 2015 – March 15, 2016

Theme: “Made in America”
Details at “Special Programs,”

www.narfe.org





Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Websites of Interest

federalnewsradio.com — Mike Causey column
fedsmith.com — daily TSP values, after 5 p.m.
federalsoup.com — scroll to topic of choice
federaltimes.com — finance and legal matters
govexec.com — pay and benefits by T. Flanagan
(Courtesy of NARFE Seattle Chapter 43)

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome! James Partridge

Reinstatements/Welcome Back: Howard House; Randall Johnson; Bart Sievers; Faye Vleiger

New and Recent Retirees! Please consider dues withholding for your membership and renewals. Just complete the form but SEND NO MONEY. In 6-9 weeks, you'll receive a notice from OPM with the amount deducted from your annuity, \$3.67, and your new monthly annuity figure. PLUS, you'll receive a one-time \$15 combined rebate from our state federation and chapter. Questions? Call me, 509.375.0739, or use email, caylorx2@aol.com.

Mark your Calendars!

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.

October 21

Healthcare providers representatives will be in our area for open season. Details at fall meetings.

Hidden numbers: July/August numbers belonged to: Lyle Birch; Alan Walker; Mike Zamorski. **No calls; no winners! Let's change this!** Find 3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of a member's NARFE number**. Contact me, 509.375.0739, and win \$5.

PROTECT America's Heartbeat Toolkit!
Updated/Expanded! Go to: www.narfe.org.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Heads up! For the September chapter Meeting, our volunteer “meeting” callers will make their **annual calls to all members to verify information**. Please help them by returning their calls. This is an important annual endeavor to help ensure we have correct membership information. Thank you. Should you need, my contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304; email: pgriff1@earthlink.net.**



Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Member Barbara Fedoriga passed away recently. Condolences to her family.

Former Member Arlene Peterson also passed away recently. Condolences to her family.

Thinking-of-You Card to member Jerry Yesberger and his wife; both are ill.

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.

New School Year!

*Help keep our children safe.
Be patient. Drive safely.*

