



In your mailbox soon — the 2017 NARFE calendar!

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

2016 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members	
President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
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 2016, Issue 5

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Wow! We are rapidly approaching fall! Hopefully, it will be cooler than our summer ... at least I’m hoping so.

Our attention this fall should be on the presidential and other elections, and the bills Congress will be voting on that could affect our retirement benefits, both positively and negatively.

Further, there is a lot of contention and concern not only about our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, but also the projected premium increases for NARFE members enrolled in the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program. In fact, NARFE President Richard Thissen has sent letters to both the House and Senate urging hearings to investigate the reason why the rate hike is so high. He has also sent a letter to OPM Acting Director Beth Cobert requesting a detailed explanation. The rate hike will be effective November 1.

On the legislative side, before Congress adjourned for its summer recess, a postal reform bill was voted out of committee in the House but WEP – the Windfall Elimination Provision – hit a stumbling block. Debate is expected to continue on these and other issues when Congress is back in session after Labor Day.



CONGRESS

1st Vice President Pat Turner will be conducting our September 7 chapter meeting for me. I believe you’ll find the NARFE national convention recap interesting and informative. I’ll see you in October!

Finally, another reminder! Your chapter board is always looking for program ideas for chapter meetings! Our goal is to have interesting programs that will increase attendance, participation and membership. So, as you are out and about, if you hear or read about something or someone that interests you, keep our monthly meeting programs in mind. What you find interesting, others may, too. If you have ideas or suggestions, or if you have questions, contact Secretary Mary Binder. Thanks! **4256**

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 7

Highlights of the NARFE National Convention from chapter attendees!



Menu: chicken club sandwich w/avocado, bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato

October 5 – Heidi Newsome is scheduled to give a presentation on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services management activities in the Hanford area.



Menu: individual chicken pot pies

JULY TREASURER’S REPORT*

Balance forward, June 30	\$9,830.98
July income	\$ 242.09
July expenditures	\$ 85.04
Dedicated funds thru July 31	\$2,561.00
Balance on hand for use, July 31	\$7,427.03

(*Budget and full monthly reports are on the chapter website.)

1st Vice President – Pat Turner

As President Lorie wrote in her article, I will be conducting the September chapter meeting for her. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the meeting, and sharing with you some feedback from my first NARFE national convention!



2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

With our 2016/2017 meeting season beginning, a reminder to check the chapter website,

www.narfe1192.org, for everything from meeting minutes to upcoming meeting programs, lunch menus, etc. And as always, if you have questions about or suggestions for the chapter website, email me at leapinlar@yahoo.com.



Director at Large – Steve Howes

It is easy to get caught up in all the hoopla surrounding the upcoming presidential election. To be sure, it is turning out to be one of the most interesting and bizarre elections in recent memory. I was, however, intrigued when I read a guest editorial by Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, in the Thursday, August 4, *Tri-City Herald*. (Jason has spoken at past chapter meetings and spoke at our May WSFC convention.) The primary thesis of his editorial was to make the case for reducing the number of **elected** statewide executive branch office holders from 9 to 4, with the governor and lieutenant governor elected as a “ticket.” He explained in simple terms the roles of the 9 elected officials and his reasons for suggesting converting several to governor appointees similar to his cabinet. **(Note: If you missed this editorial and want a copy, contact Chapter Secretary Mary Binder.)**



As active and retired federal employees, we tend to focus on what is going on politically at the national level. However, much goes on at the state and local levels that impacts us and our families a great deal. Jason's editorial succinctly demonstrates a need for us to clearly understand the roles of our elected state officials, and an individual candidate's position and qualifications before casting our ballots.

NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

This 2-year congressional cycle has been a good one for NARFE-PAC. NARFE's \$1 million goal in member contributions was recently achieved, surpassing the

previous congressional cycle total of \$920,310, and with several months still remaining prior to the November elections and end of the calendar year.

Our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 continues to be a leader in NARFE-PAC contributions within our Washington State federation. As of the June 30 NARFE-PAC report, we ranked 3rd in total contributions at \$3,076 for this 2-year congressional cycle. Vancouver chapter came in first with \$4,084 and Bremerton chapter second with \$3,810. However, we did rank 1st in the number of chapter sustainers with 7 – an increase of 3 from the previous quarter! With an effort on our part – either increasing our individual contributions, becoming a NARFE-PAC sustainer, or convincing others to become a contributor, let's target increasing our federation PAC standings this quarter.



Four members of the Washington congressional delegation have received NARFE-PAC contributions totaling \$18,000 during this 2-year congressional cycle – Senator Patty Murray; and, Congressmen Rick Larsen, (2nd) Derek Kilmer (6th) and Denny Heck (10th). Specific details about contributions and amounts is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. Remember, NARFE is political but non-partisan. Contributions are made to candidates based on their support of issues important to active and retired federal employees regardless of their political party affiliations. Further, candidates must request contributions and the request is reviewed by NARFE's officers with input from NARFE's legislative department.

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

NARFE is well on its way to reaching its \$12 million goal by the end of 2016 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. As I wrote in the last newsletter, it will be interesting to watch whether the goal is again increased at this year's national convention, and how close NARFE is to reaching the current goal after the convention.

Merv Stuckey, NARFE's Alzheimer's committee chairman, has an article in the September *narfe* magazine, page 40, titled “Alzheimer's Financial Impact on Families.” Merv writes, “The Alzheimer's Association commissioned a nationwide survey to study the financial impact of Alzheimer's disease on families.” It is eye opening and reinforces why our contributions to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund are so important.

So, with our 2016/2017 meeting year commencing and our annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser coming up at our November meeting, I'm hoping we can surpass the \$2,500 total we raised last year. Thank you for your support. **4254**



WSFC Vice President – Nancy Crosby

When you receive this chapter newsletter, 8 Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 members will be attending the 34th NARFE National Convention in Reno, August 28 to September 1. Besides these chapter members, 38 other Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) members from across the state are scheduled to attend.



The national issues that will be addressed are focused on helping NARFE grow and better serve its membership. They could have a major impact on our chapter as well as the federation. Depending on the outcome, some chapter and federation bylaws and standing rules may have to be rewritten and approved by national.

Major issues we will be discussing and/or voting on are:

- ◆ Optional chapter membership;
- ◆ One member one vote;
- ◆ Authorizing the National Executive Board (NEB) to adjust national dues within specific limits – by no more than 10 percent in a 2-year period;
- ◆ Remaining at 10 regions/vice presidents vs. reducing the number of regions; and,
- ◆ Supporting a plan to hire an executive director for NARFE.

For the September 7 Chapter 1192 meeting program, chapter members who attended the convention will share highlights, including the next steps for the chapter, federation and other federation chapters based on voting results. As an example, depending on what happens at the convention, we may have to update and/or change our chapter bylaws.

As a follow-up to the convention, the newly elected WSFC federation executive board and advisory board members will have a training/retreat meeting, September 21-22, in Kennewick. A primary focus will be impacts to the federation from decisions made at the national convention.

Due to illness, Jerry Owens, newly installed District V vice president, has had to resign. Jerry is a Walla Walla chapter member. I will assist the district chapters – Tri-Cities, Yakima and Walla Walla – until a replacement can be installed. **9385**

National has announced a membership drive incentive – \$10 to recruiters for each new member they recruit between September 1 and December 31, whether that new member is a current or retired federal employee. The recruiter's name will also be entered in a drawing for an Apple iPad and Amazon gift cards.



Besides this incentive, our WSFC is also awarding \$20 to chapters for each new chapter member recruited during calendar year 2016 as an additional incentive. If each of us just recruited **one new member**, think how robust our chapters could become, in addition to the financial rewards!



Legislative – Mary Binder

The WSFC has a new legislative chairman – Lou Kush. Lou volunteered to serve as the chairman at the WSFC May convention AND joined NARFE at the same time! His first article is in the current WSFC *Federation Reporter* newsletter. The newsletter is posted on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net. Lou is a retired U.S. Postal Service manager and has been active in the National Association of Postal Supervisors for more than 15 years.



Lou wrote that he was influenced to join NARFE by talking with his wife, Anne, who is the WSFC treasurer, WSFC President Rich Wilson, Region IX VP Lanny Ross and NARFE Legislative Director Jessica Klement. He further wrote, "All this influence impressed me enough to think – how can I not join this organization! Further, it gave me the confidence to believe that the legislative chair job would be a good fit for me." Welcome, Lou!

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



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

23rd Annual All Senior Picnic!
Thursday, September 15
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
TRAC, Pasco
\$7/advance; \$10/at the door

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Mark Heeter; Linda Romine;
Kathleen Tomren!

Reinstatements: Kenneth Reeves;
Helen Speers ...Welcome Back!

Congratulations: Debbie Lopez for recruiting
new member, Stuart C. Cook, to eChapter 2363!

July 27, FEHBP Fair: Sig Preston and I provided
NARFE information. Results: 2 new members and
1 reinstated member!

Recruit! Retain! The Washington State Federation
of Chapters is again offering its chapters a \$20
rebate for each new chapter member recruited
during the year. This offer runs through December.

Attention All Members! Please share your
contact information with us and/or change in mail
or email delivery status so we do not have mail and
emails returned as undeliverable! Questions?
Call me, 509.375.0739, or send me an email at,
caylorx2@aol.com.

Hidden numbers: July/August
newsletter numbers belonged to:
Mary Goldie; Connie Nottingham;
Mary Smith. Sorry, no takers! Find
3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of
your NARFE number**. Find yours; win \$5! Call me,
509.375.0739, or let me know at a meeting! **Forgot
your number? Check the label on your narfe magazine.**

123456
78910



2017 NARFE Photo Contest
Photo Deadline: April 15, 2017
Theme: “American Dream”
Details at “Special Programs,”
www.narfe.org.

Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.,
Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536.
Visitors welcome!

Two Washington State websites you may find helpful:
First, www.washingtoncommunitylivingconnections.org.
The site has information about long-
term care services and support.
Second, www.privacy.wa.gov. This
site has “tools to help residents be
better informed about cyber privacy,
protecting personal information, and
state government data collection policies and practices.”



Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences: to the family of member Gerald Tomren.
Thinking of you: to Sam Kranz, husband of member
Dana Kranz.

Reminder: Know someone needing a little
“sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call
me, or email me, mary_binder@msn.com.



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

REMINDER! Prior to the September chapter meeting,
our callers will make their **annual calls to all members
to verify contact information**. If you need to contact
me, call: 509.492.4304; email: pgriff1@earthlink.net.

New School Year!

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

