



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](http://www.narfe.org) Washington Federation: [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org) Tri-Cities: [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)

**September 29: Washington State Federation Annual Meeting! Details on Page 2.**

### 2021 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

<b>President, Pat Turner</b>	509.539.5659
<b>Vice President, Nancy Crosby</b>	509.735.3288
<b>Secretary, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Treasurer, Liz Bowers</b>	509.430.1836
<b>Alzheimer's, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554
<b>Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall</b>	509.308.2765
<b>Legislative, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Membership, Johanna Caylor</b>	509.375.0739
<b>NARFE-PAC, John Wetterling</b>	509.545.8016
<b>Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder</b>	509.378.2494
<b>Service Officer, Ellen LeVee</b>	509.438.4284
<b>Sunshine, Faye Vlieger</b>	509.961.1095
<b>Webmaster, Larry Williams</b>	509.783.8554

### September – October, Volume 2021, Issue 5

#### Chapter President – Pat Turner

This is a great opportunity to welcome members back after our two-month summer break from chapter meetings and, hopefully, to our first in-person meeting since February 2020! Yes, COVID is still with us, so we will continue to carefully monitor federal, state and local guidance for health and safety requirements. **(Note: If an in-person meeting is changed to virtual, members will be notified. See details, this page, left column.)**



On behalf of the entire chapter board, I can say we are very much looking forward to our chapter's 50th anniversary celebration at our September meeting, and hope many members can attend! **(See Mary Binder's article, page 3, for more details.)** This is a major milestone and definitely something to celebrate. Kudos to our past and current members for keeping the chapter alive and active.

With that said, we definitely need members to continue being engaged by serving as elected officers, chairmen and/or on committees. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, have questions about positions, need more information, I would love to hear from you. The election for chapter officers is in November.

In early August, Mary Binder and I had an opportunity to spend quality time with Congressman Dan Newhouse, and several of his staff, at a local event. NARFE's advocacy department notifies federation and chapter legislative chairmen about and/or asks them to attend local events with elected officials they believe are opportunities to further relationships with congressmen and senators, and to provide them information about NARFE's legislative priorities. Mary was able to articulate to Congressman Newhouse information about the 3 specific legislative initiatives NARFE asked members to focus on during Grassroots Advocacy Month in August. It appeared the information was well received, and we were able to provide printed material regarding NARFE and the legislation to his staff in conversations with them.



### CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August  
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

**Chapter Planning for In-Person Meetings!**  
**Current plans are for in-person vs. virtual chapter meetings to resume in September, Red Lion Hotel Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd.**  
**If that changes, members will receive updates in future newsletters, in email notices for those with email addresses on file, from the chapter's callers and on the chapter's website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org).**

**September 1** – Join in celebrating the chapter's 50th anniversary! Yes, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 is 50 years old this year. So, a dual celebration – the chapter's first in-person meeting since the COVID shutdown AND a 50-year chapter celebration. More details in this newsletter.  
**Menu: beef stroganoff w/egg noodles, salad, veggies**



**October 6** – Presentation from SaLee Charlesworth, director, Active4Life, a new area program focused on empowering and motivating people to remain active.  
**Menu: Margarita chicken, roasted vegetable couscous, salad, veggies**



## Vice President – Nancy Crosby

[Editor's Note! VP Nancy recently reported that she is finally in her new home, again has internet connection and now is in the unpacking stage! She added that she is very much looking forward to seeing members at the September chapter meeting and celebration!

**NEWS!**

## Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At the August chapter executive board meeting, I provided an update on revisions I made to the budget resulting primarily from cancelled events due to COVID. Total balance in our checking/savings accounts was about \$17,470, which is better than my projection earlier in the year. This is good.



## Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

Uncertain as to how much life insurance you elected upon your retirement? I had a question recently regarding this. If you need this information, go to the OPM website, [www.serviceline.opm.gov](http://www.serviceline.opm.gov), and enter your CS claim number and password. You should find a menu on the left side of the screen. Click on "Life Insurance." You should then find the elections you made at retirement and the value of your life insurance. There is also a link at the bottom of that page for updating your designation of beneficiary.

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## NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

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NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute has an upcoming webinar on a subject that generates many questions – **To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for You?** It is Wednesday, September 15, 2 p.m., EDT.

NARFE webinars are free to NARFE members. If you cannot attend them when scheduled, they are archived and can be viewed on demand on the NARFE website. Go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Log in, then go to the NARFE Home Page, Officer Resources, Resource Library, and then click on Webinars. Note: For non-members, the webinars cost \$48, which includes a one-year NARFE membership.

If you have questions and/or need assistance, please email me at [ejlevee22@charter.net](mailto:ejlevee22@charter.net), or call me at 509.438.4284. (If calling, please leave a message; I will return the call.)

### 2021 Combined Federal Campaign

This year's CFC solicitation period dates are September 1 through January 15, 2022.  
For online donations, [cfsgiving.opm.gov](http://cfsgiving.opm.gov).  
Paper pledge donation forms also available.

## WSF President – Steve Roy

I would like to invite you to attend our Washington State Federation (WSF) virtual annual meeting, Wednesday, September 29, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We will be using Zoom, which you can access on a desktop or laptop computer, on a tablet or using a mobile phone.



An annual meeting is a WSF bylaws requirement. Last year it was held in May, and also virtually due to COVID.

The meeting agenda includes a look at what has transpired federation-wide this past year and a peek at what is coming up in the near future. The agenda also includes special NARFE guest speakers:

- ◆ Jessica Klement, staff vice president, policy and programs, will provide a legislative advocacy update. For those who have heard Jessica at past meetings, she is dynamic and provides a thorough and very informative update on NARFE's legislative activities.
- ◆ Dave Bowman, senior director, membership development. Dave will talk about membership recruitment and retention with focus on a new online community resource – FEDHub – that NARFE is targeting to release this fall. This will be Dave's first presentation to our federation. To note, if you receive the NARFE Insider, FEDHub was mentioned in the July issue.

So, please join me! If you have previously registered for a WSF virtual event, e.g., a Go-To-Meeting, you will automatically receive the Zoom invitation/link to the annual meeting. If you are a new participant to our WSF virtual events, please register on our WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), by clicking on "Sign-Up Here." WSF Webmaster Linda Wallers will then send you an email with the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

I am looking forward to having you join our virtual meeting, and hopefully "seeing" many of you.

## WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

I want to echo President Pat's "welcome" in her article, page 1! What a summer it has been for many. I hope you have been safe.

District I has 6 chapters:  
Spokane Chapter 32;  
Yakima Chapter 238;  
Wenatchee Chapter 239;

Columbia Basin Chapter 856; Tri-Cities Chapter 1192; and, Colville Valley Chapter 1247. Several are facing challenges, including everything from recruiting members, finding members to serve in officer and chairman positions to even finding a place to meet in the case of one chapter. So, a special thank you to Chapter 1192 members for all you have been and are doing to keep your chapter viable, and a special congratulations on your 50th anniversary!



## Public Relations – Mary Binder

While we continue monitoring for meeting changes due to COVID, we are moving forward with plans for an in-person, 50th anniversary, chapter celebration. Highlights:

- ◆ Theme – look for the red, white and blue decorated room!  
Consider wearing these colors!
- ◆ Special video presentations – NARFE’s centennial and gala.  
We may have another special video, too!
- ◆ Trivia quiz – questions on members’ government service and NARFE/chapter membership. Prizes awarded!
- ◆ Gift baskets – NARFE’s Alzheimer’s Research Fund fundraiser. Celebration committee members Layna Kinsman (*left in photo*) and Ellen LeVee (*right*) recently assembled the baskets, which include lovely quilted mats Layna made. Bring cash and/or checkbook for tickets to bid for the baskets!
- ◆ Dessert – Yes, a special cake from Desserts by Kelly. This Richland bakery provided the chapter’s 40th anniversary cake and many attendees said it was the best cake they’d ever had.
- ◆ Transportation – if you need assistance getting to the meeting, or other chapter meetings, contact Ellen, service officer, 509.438.4284, or Johanna Caylor, membership chairman, 509.375.0739.



As President Pat wrote, we are really looking forward to this celebration – a true, once-in-a-lifetime milestone for our chapter. We hope you can join us, and please encourage others to join us, too!

## Legislative – Mary Binder

It has been a busy couple of months! Besides attending events highlighted in President Pat’s article, page 1, and in John’s PAC article, below, I have attended several events with the Washington Policy Center to help stay abreast of state legislation that is having and/or will have impact on us. And a reminder – it is so important to contact our elected officials! Share with them how current or proposed legislation has or will impact you.



## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 117th Congress second-quarter NARFE-PAC reports for the period ending June 30 are on the NARFE website. [See page 9, September NARFE magazine, for a 2021-2022 goals summary.] Our chapter, federation and region’s contributions and number of sustainers remain strong! For example, our Region IX – Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington – remains first in “mean” contributions at \$63.41 vs. the NARFE average of \$44.28.

## 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., Suite 206, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Also, Washington ranks 4th of all 50 states, DC and territories in sustainers; and, with 7, is tied with the Bremerton chapter for the most number of sustainers in our state. Thanks to all who have contributed. We have much legislative work to do, so please continue to contribute. Also, consider becoming a sustainer – see page 11, September NARFE magazine.

I was able to attend the August 4 Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly lunch/meeting with Pat, Nancy, Mary and Lorie.

A first for me. [See photo]

Congressman Dan Newhouse was the guest speaker and provided a legislative and DC update from his perspective. It was informative.



## Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

The area’s annual **Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Sunday, October 10**, is still planned as an in-person walk. **Our chapter has a team!** I hope many members can join us, either in person and/or with financial support! To join, or just to donate to the team, go to our chapter website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org). Click “Programs” and then the link in the box with Walk information. I’ll have more details at chapter meetings and will update the website if there are changes. Thank you for the support – as a walker, donor or both!

WSF Alzheimer’s Coordinator Lorie Bennett recently sent a thank you note. She wrote, “You all have helped increase the national NARFE donation amount.” If you cannot attend a meeting and donate, you can send checks for “NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund” to Lorie Bennett, WSF Alzheimer’s coordinator, at: 4310 S. Kingwood Street, Kennewick WA 99337-5706. Write “Tri-Cities Chapter 1192” on the memo line.



**Return Service Requested**

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

TO:

**Happy 50th Anniversary, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192!**  
**Join the chapter celebration, September 1!**

**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

Sigh. Recruiting has been slow for me this year with COVID, but I keep trying, and I know others have, too. Here are some membership numbers as of early August:

- ◆ 212 chapter members; 143 national-only members in the area; 355, total.
- ◆ 47 members on annual renewal; 13 on 2-year; and, 33 on 3-year.
- ◆ 98 members on dues withholding.
- ◆ 20 members are life members.
- ◆ 2 members dropped for non-renewal; 1 voluntary cancellation; but, 7 members renewed!
- ◆ 1 honorary member, Ray White, who turned 101, July 30! Congratulations, Ray!



And, an update and reminder:

- ◆ As of this newsletter the dates for the fall FEHB program local health fairs have not been released. But key dates are: November 1, the 2022 federal benefits plan rates will be available; November 8 to December 13, open season dates. We'll provide health fair updates at chapter meetings, in the next newsletter and on the chapter website.
- ◆ To save a little money as a retiree – dues withholding. Example: rather than \$58 (\$48/NARFE dues; \$10/chapter dues), you only pay \$52 – a \$6 savings. Divide this by 12 months, and it is only \$4.33 from your monthly annuity, and you don't have to deal with reminders!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: (H) 509.375.0739; (Text) 509.308.6664; (Email) [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com).

**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

Another very quiet “sunshine” period. As a reminder, if you 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).



**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

A friendly reminder! Just prior to the September chapter meeting, chapter callers will make their **ANNUAL CALLS TO LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERS** to ensure we have correct contact info. Please help us! Reply to their calls/messages. If you need assistance, contact me, **Darleen Wall**,  
**Email:** [jdwall2@centurylink.net](mailto:jdwall2@centurylink.net);  
**Phone:** (H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765.



**Webmaster – Larry Williams**

With meetings resuming in September, this is a great time for a reminder to check our website, [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org)! Meeting information is posted, including the programs, lunch menus and minutes, and chapter newsletters, too. Also, watch for information about the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce lunch meetings, free Alzheimer’s webinars and the ALZ magazine. Finally, our WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org), has much information, too.



**New School Year!**  
*Help keep our children safe.*  
**Be patient. Drive safely.**



**NARFE**  
**perks**  
MEMBERSHIP PAYS



Use your NARFE Perks, and your membership will more than pay for itself!