



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.narfewa.org Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Reminder! Washington State Federation Virtual Conference, October 11-13. See page 2.

2022 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
Vice President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
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, John Wetterling	509.545.8016
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
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., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick
Lunch: \$20; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Programs for Fall Chapter Meetings

September 7 – Leanne Purcell, executive director, The Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, will provide a foundation overview, including its "Team Read" program.



October 5 – Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter, will provide an educational program on the "Ten Warning Signs" of Alzheimer's.



November 2 – Annual chapter "white elephant" fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Time to start thinking about items to bring!



December 7 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet will again provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice.



September – October, Volume 2022, Issue 5

Chapter President – Pat Turner

September is a GREAT month! Why? On September 7, we are scheduled to resume our in-person luncheon meetings at the Red Lion Hotel Kennewick, Columbia Center. I hope MANY chapter members can join us! It is SO important for us as a chapter and organization to stay connected and to keep informed of NARFE's many benefits. [Note! If you need transportation to the meeting, please contact Service Officer Ellen LeVee, Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor or any other board member. They will assist in getting transportation for you to and from the meeting.]



I am SO pleased to report that besides me, 6 other chapter members attended **FEDcon22**, August 21-23,



Scottsdale, Arizona. While I do not yet know if we had the most chapter members attending of all NARFE chapters, I can report there were state federations that did not have 7 members total attend let alone from a chapter! It was a great training conference – an important way to learn about NARFE's successes, benefits and challenges. We will be providing summary information at the September chapter meeting. Also, see Mary Binder's article, page 3, this newsletter.

Elections! First, I hope you voted in the NARFE national elections, which closed August 31. Next, there will be elections for our Washington State Federation (WSF) officers in September. We'll provide updates on the elections and the voting process at the September meeting. Then, looking ahead to 2023, next fall there will be elections for our chapter officers for the 2-year period, 2024-2026. It is SO important that we start now to look for individuals who can and are willing to serve in our elected positions – president, vice president, secretary, treasurer. If you are interested, know someone who might be interested, and/or want more information about the positions, please call me or any chapter board member.



Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Yes, September is here, which means summer is ending and fall is just around the corner. It also means another “chapter meeting season” is beginning; and, for ALL local chapter members, it is when our callers make their annual calls to verify member contact information and whether they want to be on the “call” or “do not call” list for monthly meetings. See Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall’s reminder, page 4.



As one of the 7 chapter members attending **FEDcon22** President Pat referenced in her front-page article, I, too, want to emphasize how important it is for our members to stay engaged and how critical it is to have members willing to serve in leadership positions. Your current chapter officers are willing to mentor anyone interested in serving in an officer or chair position. Leadership is key to keeping our chapter viable. Want to know more about how the chapter functions? Consider attending a virtual chapter board meeting. They are open to all members – chapter and national-only. (See box below.)

The next virtual chapter board meeting is Monday, September 26, 10:00 a.m. Let me know if you wish to attend and I will send you the Zoom link information.

Continuing with staying engaged, have you logged onto FEDHub on the NARFE website? It is “NARFE’s new online community.” See page 6, September *NARFE Magazine*, for login information. At **FEDcon22** we learned that NARFE is expanding this communication tool. All federations and then chapters will soon have their own “FEDHub.” As Dorothy Creswell from the Texas Federation wrote in an article, “You can use FEDHub to share ideas, get answers to questions and learn from other chapters experiences.”

Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

It is not too early to start thinking about the upcoming Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season, November 14 – December 12, and whether you need to make a health benefits change, including adding a vision and/or dental plan. Starting in September, NARFE will have webinars for retirees and current employees through



its Federal Benefits Institute, focusing on FEHB plans and Medicare. See page 15, September *NARFE Magazine*, for a list of the fall series. Webinars are at 2 p.m., ET, and are FREE to members. If you have questions or need assistance in locating any of the above information, please contact me at ejlevee22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message; I will return your call!)

WSF President – Steve Roy

It has been a busy “NARFE” summer! Planning, meetings, calls, emails, outreach events, advocacy, an in-person conference and more have all been part of summer activities for many of your Washington State Federation (WSF) leaders and members. For me, a “wow” moment these past months was at **FEDcon22** where I was able to meet members I had not met before.



Regarding **FEDcon22**, I am very pleased to report our WSF had 18 members attend, including one national-only member. Seven were from your Tri-Cities chapter, which is a positive reflection on the chapter and its commitment to NARFE. Our Region IX – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – had 29 members attending, which is also a good representation.

In his “Welcome to **FEDcon22**” letter in the conference program book, NARFE President Ken Thomas wrote the conference “... sets the stage for a one-of-a-kind forum celebrating the dedication of America’s civil servants” ... and to “get ready for a lively two and a half days of thought-provoking speakers, leadership training, and intensive education of federal benefits...” It was that and more. You’ll find some highlights in this newsletter (see *Mary Binder’s article, page 3*), at your chapter’s September meeting, at our upcoming WSF virtual conference (see below), and in a future *NARFE Magazine*.

I hope members voted in the NARFE elections that closed August 31. Results – for national officers and regional vice presidents, and for bylaws amendments – will be announced soon – electronically and in the magazine.

Regarding elections, during September WSF members will be voting for our 4 WSF elected officer positions – president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Results will be announced at our October 11-13, virtual WSF annual meeting and conference. Please remember to vote. To note, the 3 district vice presidents will be elected during the district breakout sessions at the conference.

Scheduled speakers during our conference include: Denny Heck, Washington State lieutenant governor; Steven Hobbs, Washington State secretary of state; Ken Thomas, NARFE president; Kathryn Hensley, NARFE secretary/treasurer; John Hatton, NARFE staff vice president for policy and programs; and, Linda Silverio, NARFE Region IX vice president. We are also planning sessions on outreach and membership, and a special memorial service for our deceased members.

Watch for more details via emails, chapter meetings and the WSF website, www.narfewa.org.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

So, some reminders from the last chapter newsletter:

- ◆ Watch for a new “senior guide” publication to be published soon for our area of the state. We have 2 NARFE/chapter “ads” in the guide.
- ◆ October 9 – the chapter will have a NARFE table at the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. (See *Larry Williams’ article, page 4, regarding the Walk.*)
- ◆ October 18 – the chapter will again have a NARFE table at the Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick, as we did in May. The event garnered new members and other great contacts.
- ◆ The annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) starts September 1 and runs through January 15, 2023. For details, including for donations, go to: [givecfc.org](https://www.givecfc.org).
- ◆ Looking for the 2023 NARFE calendar? See page 48, August *NARFE Magazine*, and page 7, September magazine. Information was also sent electronically in a “NARFE Membership Update,” August 25.



Legislative – Mary Binder

It happened and we were there! After a 2-year delay due to COVID, NARFE held an in-person conference, **FEDcon22**. As you read elsewhere in this newsletter, 7 chapter members attended. (See photo below. Back row, left to right, Nancy Crosby, Janice Lake, John Wetterling. Front row, left to right, Lorie Bennett, Pat Turner, Darleen Wall, Mary Binder.)



It was a busy 2 and a half days that included: NARFE and legislative updates from NARFE’s senior leaders, and inspirational and informative speakers and presenters on a wide variety of topics. Besides learning more about benefits, keeping chapters viable, NARFE-PAC and advocacy, attendees could learn about preventing online fraud, decluttering, building a family tree and the latest in apps to help you take care of yourself and others.

On a sad note, attendees were told that close to 16,500 NARFE members have passed away since the 2018 conference. So, with 80 now the average age of a NARFE member, recruiting new members becomes critical.

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

On the legislative front – some very positive news! After years and years of working to repeal “GPO and “WEP,” there are enough co-sponsors of H.R. 82, *Social Security Fairness Act*, for a House vote in September. Continue to watch for updates in the days ahead. Also, the September *NARFE Magazine* has details on H.R. 82 and other legislation NARFE’s advocacy team is working on.

Finally, coming soon, NARFE will announce its legislative priorities for the 2023/2024 Congress. The NARFE National Executive Board approved the priorities at its meeting in Scottsdale prior to the start of **FEDcon22**.

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 6th quarter PAC reports for the 2021/2022 cycle ending June 30 are now on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. I will also report on them at the chapter’s September meeting.

Meanwhile, it is good to be able to report that members, including from our chapter, continue to contribute to NARFE-PAC. See page 11, September *NARFE Magazine*, for summary information on NARFE’s 2021-2022 goals.

Further, our Region IX

NARFE-PAC

continues to rank first in the

“mean” contribution at \$92.73 vs. the overall NARFE “mean” of \$62.84! And, at 6, we continue to rank first in our state for the number of sustainers!

As I wrote in the last newsletter, election season is here, so PAC contributions are needed more than ever to help ensure individuals are elected or re-elected who support issues important to both current federal employees and retirees. Donations can be made using the form in each *NARFE Magazine* or online. Becoming a “sustainer” is another option – a monthly deduction of at least \$10 from your federal annuity or a credit card.

A reminder: **NARFE is “political” but nonpartisan.”**

Return Service Requested

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

NEW ... 988 for Help!
Washington State has joined the rest of the country with a new 3-digit number to be more easily connected to the nationwide Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

As of August 1, the chapter had almost \$500 in its checking account and just over \$16K in savings. Bills are paid. Looking ahead I am projecting the 2023 budget will be similar to this year’s budget.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor
NARFE’s fall membership drive is September 1 through December 31! “Current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit.” See page 56, September NARFE Magazine, for details! Can you recruit one?

As of August 22, we had 220 chapter members, 135 national-only members, for a total of 355 members.

Reminders to all members:

- ◆ Your NARFE ID number is on your NARFE Magazine mailing label. To get “recruiter” credit, put it on application forms. Consider a one-year gift membership to a friend or family member working for the federal government. A great retirement gift, too!
- ◆ For current federal employees (CFEs), please encourage your co-workers to join NARFE. Share your NARFE Magazine. I have extras if you need!
- ◆ Dues withholding saves retirees \$6.04 annually and only \$4.33 monthly from their annuity. Want to know more? Need help? Contact me. (See below.)

Have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, annahojx2@gmail.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger
(Since the July/August newsletter)

Condolences to: the family of member Faye Bowers who passed away; also, former member Dee Knuter recently passed away



Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes to members: Chuck Clayton; Nancy Glaesemann;

TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

A friendly reminder! Our callers will make their **annual calls to local chapter members** before the September chapter meeting to ensure we have correct contact information. PLEASE help us by answering, or returning their calls when they leave messages! If you want us to use an alternate method for contacting you, PLEASE let me know. Thank you. Feedback on our process is welcomed!
Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869;
Email: jdwall2@centurylink.net.



Jim/Johanna Caylor; and to member Randy Grekowitz and his wife, Fia

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

Reminders! Sunday, October 9, the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s! Find our chapter team at www.alz.org/walk. Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in the box titled “Team Name” to get to the registration/donation page. And, NEW THIS YEAR ... we will have a NARFE table at the Walk!



At **FEDcon22**, Harry Johns, CEO, Alzheimer’s Association, said, “I see treatment in the marketplace in the relatively near future.” He said this is the first time he as reported this!

Reminder! November is the chapter’s white elephant fundraiser. Time to think about items to bring!

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Check the chapter, www.narfe1192.org, and federation, www.narfewa.org, websites for a wealth of information!

