



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)

**Reminder! Washington State Federation Virtual Annual Meeting, September 27. See pages 1 & 2.**

### 2023 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, Nancy Crosby (Acting)</b> | 509.735.3288 |
| <b>Sunshine, Faye Vlieger</b>                 | 509.961.1095 |
| <b>Webmaster, Larry Williams</b>              | 509.783.8554 |

### CHAPTER MEETINGS/PROGRAMS

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., Columbia Center Red Lion, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

*(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)*

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

*Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.*

### Upcoming Chapter Meetings

**September 6** – NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) President Cray Henry will be the program speaker. He will provide an update on the federation.

**Menu: maple-glazed roasted pork loin, mashed potatoes, salad, dessert**



**October 4** – A speaker from either Benton County or Franklin County conservation districts will provide an overview of these

organizations and their focus on wise

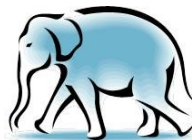


FRANKLIN COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

stewardship of all natural resources in the counties.

**Menu: margarita chicken, chef's choice of starch and veggies, salad, dessert**

**November 1** – Annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.



**Think about items to bring!**

**Menu: turkey, stuffing, green beans, salad, dessert**

**December 6** – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet!

### **September – October, Volume 2023, Issue 5**

#### **Chapter President – Pat Turner**

As I am still recovering from my injuries due to an April car accident, I am not yet able to attend chapter meetings. Physical therapy remains a top priority!

It is good to know Cray Henry, our Washington State Federation (WSF) president, can attend the first fall meeting and provide a federation update! Hopefully, many members can attend to welcome him. I miss you all and hope you have a wonderful meeting and fall.



#### **Vice President – Nancy Crosby**

Welcome to the chapter’s fall meetings! As you will find on this page, we have interesting programs lined up for the season. I hope you can join us, and that you find this newsletter helpful and enjoyable.

As President Pat is unable to complete her term, I will act on her behalf until we have new officers in place in January. Pat is missed as she has been a good NARFE community representative along with providing NARFE and our chapter much support.

Regarding upcoming elections, a slate of officers will be presented at the October chapter meeting for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Elections will be at the November meeting with installation of the new officers at the December meeting. They will begin their 2024/2025 term January 1. If you are interested in serving in an elected officer position, in an appointed coordinator position, or knowing more about the positions, please contact Mary Binder, 509.378.2494.



The chapter board of directors has worked to have interesting and informative programs at chapter meetings. Our meetings have been well-attended, and we hope this continues as it is vital to the chapter’s continued success.

I also want to extend a special welcome to our newer members from the closed Wenatchee and Yakima chapters, and to our members in the Walla Walla and Lewiston/Clarkston areas! Please know you are welcome at our meetings, and thank you for your membership!

## Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

This fall I will be meeting with our Red Lion’s catering staff to discuss 2024 meal choices and costs. [I urge you to share menu suggestions with me.](#) As we have basically used the same menu for several years, we are hoping to make some affordable changes. More details at upcoming chapter meetings.



## Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

In July the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released 3 new videos “that will walk federal retirees through certain aspects of navigating their online retirement services accounts.” OPM Director Kiran Ahuja said in a statement, “*The purpose of these videos is to reduce login errors for federal retirees managing their retirement accounts online, and to improve responsiveness by reducing wait times at our call center. Our goal is to make this transition for federal employees as easy as possible.*” More information will be available at the September chapter meeting, or you can access the July OPM release at: [www.opm.gov/news/releases](http://www.opm.gov/news/releases). On the release page, click on “2023” and then “July.”

Next, a reminder about NARFE’s Federal Benefits Institute. Its experts – many with human resource backgrounds, including from working at OPM – are




available to assist you. Contact information is in each *NARFE Magazine*, but the number to call is 800.456.8410, then, option 2.

Also, note page 25, September *NARFE Magazine*. You will find this “Benefits Resources” announcement, “**NARFE offers members** a wide range of information on federal benefits. Visit [www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute](http://www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute).”

Finally, a reminder about NARFE’s Federal Benefits Institute webinars. They are FREE to members – a benefit of NARFE membership. Can’t attend the actual webinar? Not a problem! They are archived on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), going back to 2019. For example, if you missed the August 31 webinar, “Thrift Savings Plan: Should You Stay or Should You Go?” it will be archived under the Federal Benefits Institute “webinar” tab.

Chapter Alzheimer’s Coordinator Larry Williams recently provided the chapter board an update on the FDA’s “traditional approval process of lecanemab (Leqembi™, Eisai)” for treating early Alzheimer’s. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid will cover the treatments, but there are stipulations. More details as they are available.



**2024 NARFE Photo Contest**  
**Now through February 2, 2024**  
Theme: “From Sea to Shining Sea”  
See page 51, September *NARFE Magazine*

## WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

Is fall really just around the corner? In some ways, it is hard to believe summer is almost over! Ask me if I am ready for a change from Eastern Washington’s hot summer days? YUP!



OK, back to NARFE and federation business. First, in case you missed previous announcements, Cray Henry, our Washington State Federation (WSF) president, is scheduled to attend the Tri-Cities chapter’s September 6 meeting, as noted on page 1, this newsletter. This will be his first visit to the chapter since becoming WSF president in October 2022. It will be a great opportunity to meet and talk with him, besides getting a federation update. I am hoping many NARFE members, whether chapter or national-only will be able to attend to welcome President Henry to Eastern Washington, the Tri-Cities, and to Chapter 1192! **[Note! Reservations are needed to attend the meeting and/or to have lunch. See details, page 1, this newsletter.]**

Then, September 27, starting at 10:00 a.m., a (virtual) WSF annual meeting. **All WSF members are invited!** The agenda will include updates from: Region IX VP Steve Roy; WSF chapter presidents, or their representatives; and WSF officers and coordinators. Also on the agenda are an informational session from WSF Service Officer Charlie Caughlan titled “Instructions for Surviving Spouses,” and an update from Region IX Alzheimer’s Coordinator Linda O’Donnell. Again, **all WSF members are invited.** More details, including the login information, will be posted on the WSF website, [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).

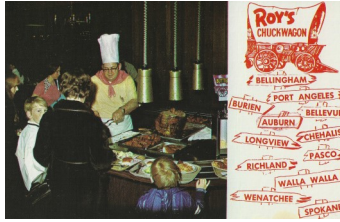
Looking ahead to 2024, it will be a busy NARFE year. Several things to note:



- ◆ NARFE elections for national president, secretary/treasurer and regional vice presidents. Details will be in *NARFE* magazines, sent electronically, and on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- ◆ **FEDcon24**, the NARFE biennial conference, is scheduled for August 16-21, Hyatt Regency, St. Louis.
- ◆ WSF elections for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and district vice presidents. Information will be on the WSF website, in chapter newsletters, at chapter meetings, sent electronically, etc.
- ◆ And then, the **IN-PERSON** Region IX Training Conference, October 24-26, at the Three Rivers Convention Center (TRCC) and the attached SpringHill Suites, Kennewick! Besides Washington, there are 4 other states in Region IX: Alaska; Idaho; Montana; and Oregon. A conference committee is in place and has been meeting and planning. More details in the months ahead, but mark your calendars!

## Public Relations – Mary Binder

First ... a “Happy 52nd Anniversary” to our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192! The chapter’s first meeting was March 3, 1971, at Roy’s Chuck Wagon, Richland. The chapter’s charter was finalized September 17, 1971. Fifty-two years and still going strong! Thank you to all members for your support.



For your calendars, a couple of upcoming events where we will have a NARFE table:

- ♦ **October 14** – the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s. (See Larry Williams’ article, page 4.)
- ♦ **October 17** – the fall Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports & Events Complex, Kennewick, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



More details at the September and October chapter meetings. If you are interested in helping at these events, please contact me.

As this newsletter was being finalized, information on the 2024 Combined Federal Campaign website was still “under construction.” Typically, the annual campaign begins September 1 and ends in January. More details in the weeks and months ahead.



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

## Legislative – Mary Binder

Several things to note! In the September NARFE Magazine, pages 8-9, is a summary article on the June legislative training conference. Also, note on page 8 NARFE’s “September Action Alert: Protect Federal Workers’ Earned Benefits and Oppose Budget Cuts.”



With Congress back in session after Labor Day, BUT with the fiscal year ending September 30, there is much Congress needs to accomplish to avoid a government shutdown. A busy and stressful time! While repealing

## 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

GPO/WEP remain top NARFE priorities, NARFE’s advocacy staff is closely monitoring budget proposals aimed at earned benefits. Updates are in the September NARFE Magazine, and for members who receive electronic NARFE information, please continue to watch for updates, including “calls for action.” Now is not the time to sit back and hope for the best. We must stay engaged.

## NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 118th Congress second quarter PAC reports, April 1 through June 30, are posted on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). (After logging in as a member, go to the “Advocacy” tab, then “NARFE-PAC.”) Good news is our chapter, Washington federation and Region IX are doing good supporting NARFE-PAC! For example, at 7 sustainers (monthly automatic contribution), our chapter remains first in our federation. Our Region IX continues to lead all 10 NARFE regions in the “mean” (average) contribution – a record the region has held for many years.

NARFE has “ambitious” raise, disburse and send goals for the 2023-2024 cycle. Here is a summary thru June 30:

- ♦ Raise \$1,600,00: \$481,597.
- ♦ Disburse: \$1,200,00 for political contributions: \$258,500.
- ♦ Send NARFE members to 125 local fundraisers: 23.

And a reminder – NARFE’s “PAC” is its **political but nonpartisan “arm”** that works to protect members’ pay and benefits by raising and spending money to elect members of Congress who support the federal community. It works for us “by building strong relationships with lawmakers ...” It is “financed through NARFE members’ direct, voluntary contributions to a separate fund. Federal law prohibits NARFE-PAC from soliciting contributions from anyone other than NARFE members and the immediate family of these individuals.” Member dues are not used.





**Return Service Requested**

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

**TO:**



**Treasurer – Liz Bowers**

Good chapter financial news! Thanks to the \$25/per lunch members agreed to pay for 2023, which is an additional \$2.64 over the actual cost, we were able to pay for 10 speaker lunches for the first 6 months and add \$277.20 to our treasury. I am pleased to report that as of August 15, our treasury balance was a healthy \$20,532. At the September and October chapter meetings, I will have copies of the draft 2024 chapter budget for review and comment. Can't make a meeting and want a copy? Please contact me.



**Did You Know?**  
Printing and mailing a newsletter now exceeds a member's \$10 annual chapter dues. Receive a mailed copy?  
Please consider changing to an electronic copy. Let your "caller" know or send an email to: [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com).

**Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor**

As of August 17, our Tri-Cities chapter had **495** members – **251** chapter members and **244** national-only members in the chapter area – a small increase from my last report.

**Welcome:** new member Joseph Renevitz; and reinstated members: Stephen Fancuilla; Russell Kruse; Ronald Long; Brenda Nickels.

**Dues withholding:** More than 115 chapter members are using this payment option. It is painless, costs only \$4.33/month and you send NO MONEY with your application or renewal form. If you want more information or assistance to enroll, I can help you. A 2023 goal is to increase our dues withholding number!

**Gift memberships:** Consider a one-year gift membership to a friend or family member working for the federal government. A great retirement gift, too!

Need an extra magazine and/or have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, [annahojx2@gmail.com](mailto:annahojx2@gmail.com).

**CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!**

Welcome back from our summer recess! We hope you are refreshed and ready for another NARFE year.

A friendly reminder! Our callers will make their **annual calls to chapter members** before the September chapter meeting to ensure we have correct contact information. This year **all regional, not just local, members will be called**, e.g., members in our Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima areas. **Please** respond to their calls/messages so we can verify information, including if you want to be called about meetings.



If you need, my contact information:  
**Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765;**  
**Email: [jdwall2@frontier.com](mailto:jdwall2@frontier.com).**

**Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger**

*(Since the July/August newsletter)*

**Condolences (online) for:** LaVerne Nelson, member; Doris Van Hamme, former member

**Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes:**

Bob Stewart; Pat Turner; Ray White (*Happy 103rd, Ray!*)

**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).**



**Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams**

**REMINDER!** Walk to End Alzheimer's, Saturday, October 14, John Dam Plaza, Richland! To register and/or donate, go to [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk). Click on "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" for "Team Name." That will take you to a registration/donation page.



**Webmaster – Larry Williams**

Websites with more information: (chapter) [www.narfe1192.org](http://www.narfe1192.org); (WSF) [www.narfewa.org](http://www.narfewa.org).

