



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.narfe.org/wa/ Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Reminders: Armed Forces Day, May 16; Memorial Day, May 25; D-Day, June 6; Flag Day, June 14!

2026 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Vice President, Vacant	
Secretary, Vacant	
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
Hospitality/Zoom, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Legislative, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
PR/Service Officer, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
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., CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

(Vegetarian & gluten free meals available, if ordered ahead)

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

(Board meetings are virtual; contact Nancy Crosby for Zoom link. Next meeting: Monday, June 22, 1:30 p.m.)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

May 6 – Learn about the 3 Rivers Foundation! Tara Wiswall, foundation chair, will provide an overview.



Menu: Tri-tip sliders, tater tots, macaroni salad or coleslaw, dessert

June 3 – Heather Hill, deputy to the health officer, is



currently scheduled to provide an overview on the BFHD, and some of its programs, e.g., the Community Health Assessment. **[Note: Program may change.]**

Menu: Baked potato bar buffet, salad, dessert

*For Chapter and National-Only Members
Outside the Tri-Cities Area!*

You are **MOST WELCOME** to attend a chapter meeting, including lunch! **A RESERVATION IS NEEDED.** Please call Nancy Crosby or Darleen Wall by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

May – June, Volume 2026, Issue 3

President – Mary Alice Binder

I don't know about you, but I have been wondering what season I am in! I have been transitioning between some very warm weather while wintering south to winter weather here on this home front, despite what the calendar says! But, this will pass!



Despite the weather, our winter breather from outreach events and other activities is over. Our new "season" began March 21 at the Three Rivers Convention Center with a NARFE chapter table at the veteran service and job fair hosted by U. S. Congressman Dan Newhouse. Chapter volunteers Ellen Le Vee, Faye Vlieger and John Wetterling staffed the table, talked with several veterans, including prospective members, and visited with Congressman Newhouse when he visited our NARFE table. Thank you, Ellen, Faye and John!

April 14 the spring Senior Times Expo, Southridge Sports Complex. With nearly 100 vendors and about 700 attendees, it was a **very** busy day! *(Photo, right, courtesy of the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business.)*



To the left of our NARFE table – Congressman Newhouse's table staffed by a local case managers. To the right of our table – State Senator Matt Boehnke's table. He is a candidate in the congressional race for retiring Congressman Newhouse's seat. This arrangement was a great opportunity to interface with reps at both tables, along with having good conversations with many attendees! Special thanks to chapter volunteers Janice Lake, Alicia Mercado and John Wetterling!



Next – Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9! This annual celebration "honors the people who [have or are serving] our nation as federal, state, county, local and tribal government employees." Thank you to all!

REMINDER to Members!

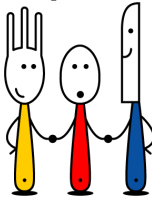
2026 suggestions for doing something you have not done, or done for a while, with Chapter 1192.

- ◆ Attend a chapter meeting if you've never been, or not been in a while
- ◆ Bring a guest/prospective member to a meeting
- ◆ Recruit a new member, or get a current or dropped member to renew
- ◆ Attend a virtual board meeting
- ◆ Volunteer to coordinate a speaker/program for a chapter meeting
- ◆ Donate to/increase a donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, or to NARFE-PAC and/or become a PAC sustainer
- ◆ Contact an elected official
- ◆ Volunteer to help at an outreach event
- ◆ Explore the chapter, WSF or NARFE websites to become more familiar with them
- ◆ Sign up for electronic NARFE updates
- ◆ Attend **FEDcon26**, Indianapolis, August 23-25
- ◆ Attend the WSF annual meeting and Regions IX Symposium, Ellensburg, October 1-3

The above are a few suggestions! Thank you to those who have already responded. More ideas? Questions? Contact Mary Binder at: 509.378.2494!

Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

Our current menu selections end with the June chapter meeting. I will be meeting with our CG Public House & Catering point of contact on menu options for the remainder of the year, member concerns, how we can improve, and our 2027 contract. Feedback? Ideas? Suggestions? Let me know! **Thank you!**



Zoom (Virtual) Meeting Information!

Chapter board meetings are virtual via Zoom.

All members welcome!

Contact Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288, for details.

Service Officer – Mary Binder (Acting)

Whether a call is from a NARFE member or a family, or even a call from a non-member, NARFE tries to help. This approach trickles out to those of us in the field, too. As I tell those who call, I do NOT have all the answers BUT hopefully can be a conduit for information and get them headed in the right direction, give them options, etc. And, most importantly, there are numerous resources to access, whether individuals with benefits experience, information online, whatever. Calls and queries vary from something fairly simple to heart-wrenching and complex scenarios.

Often, I am reminded of the importance to have one's "affairs in order." Fortunately, NARFE has helpful tools



for its members. An example: Recently I was able to quickly get a copy of NARFE's white paper, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*, and the NARFE F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know* to a member who was having trouble getting them electronically. An easy but still very important resolution. So, a question to ponder: *Are your affairs in order?*



Reminder! For members with Medicare Part B – several federal plans offer premium reimbursements in varying amounts, from several hundred to over a thousand dollars. Reimbursements are not always automatic; many require proof of payment. Check your plan, and its guidance for the reimbursement, if applicable.

WISeR Pilot Program. To note: In chapter newsletters for the next several years, there will be updates on this U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pilot program. Washington state is one of 6 states in the program. WISeR (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction Model Pilot Program), began January 1, and is targeted to end December 31, 2031. More info at: www.CMS.gov. Also to note, on March 18, *The Seattle Times* had an article titled "New Medicare program using AI leaves WA patients in pain" by business reporter Jessica Fu. Questions? Feel free to contact me.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

Events and elections ... busy months ahead!

- ◆ **August 23-25, FEDCON26**, NARFE's biennial conference, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis. Details on pages 30-31, May *NARFE Magazine*, and the NARFE website. Early bird registration ends May 22. To register, go to: www.FEDCON.NARFE.org. The Washington State Federation and our chapter are helping members with some costs. Join me! This event is A GREAT opportunity to meet, greet and learn!
- ◆ **October 1-3**, the Region IX Symposium and WSF annual meeting in Ellensburg. Join members from the Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon federations along with members from our Washington federation! Details on the WSF website, www.narfe.org/wa/, including preliminary signup to help the planning committee. Yes! Another GREAT meet, greet and learn opportunity.
- ◆ **2026 Walks to End Alzheimer's.** For our NARFE members in Eastern Washington: September 19, Moses Lake; September 26, Wenatchee; October 10, Richland; October 17, Yakima and also Quad Cities (Lewiston, Clarkston, Moscow, Pullman).

To note: NARFE national election information is on page 46, May *NARFE Magazine*. Our Washington state federation will also hold officer elections. Details at future chapter meetings, in newsletters, and via electronic messages.

Public Relations – Mary Binder

As I noted in my article on page 1, our chapter's busy outreach season has begun. As with spring arriving, and the popping up and out of spring flowers and foliage, I am experiencing the same for 2026 outreach events for NARFE and our chapter. Yes, dates for events are popping up and out in emails, in letters, on calendars, etc.

For planning, typically, spring and fall are our busiest seasons. Looking ahead, below are some known dates/events at which I am targeting having a NARFE and chapter presence. For some events, not all details are yet available and/or confirmed. Stay tuned!

- ♦ **June 4-7**, Washington State Association of Letters Carriers state convention, Pasco Red Lion. NARFE participation is tentative; awaiting confirmation.*
- ♦ **June 14-16**, Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association's annual meeting, Pasco Red Lion. NARFE participation is tentative; awaiting confirmation.*
- ♦ **September (Date TBD)**, the 29th Annual Active 4 Life Senior Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco.*
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, The Fingernail Stage, Richland – new location!* **[Note: See page 2, this newsletter, for other Eastern Washington Walk dates.]**
- ♦ **October 13**, the fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.*
- ♦ **October 31**, Yakima Valley Veterans Stand Down & Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun Dome, State Fair Park, Yakima.* **[Date change.]**
- ♦ **November 6**, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo, HAPO Center, Pasco.* **[Location change!]**
- ♦ **November 14**, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center, 7 to 10 p.m. The chapter is again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.*

*Volunteers needed. Please contact me if you can help, have questions or need more information. Thanks!

Other announcements:

- ♦ **NARFE'S 2026 Photo Contest** – winners for the 2027 calendar to be announced at the end of June. Info at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.
- ♦ **FEEA** – "In 2026, FEEA celebrates 40 years of supporting federal employees and their families." From FEEA, "... the people who dedicate their careers to serving the public deserve support when they need it most." Thank you, FEEA!
- ♦ **NARFE Upcoming Webinars** – Several in May and June! See page 11, May NARFE Magazine.



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>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suite 160K, Richland WA 99352
Phone: 509.453.7462

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

Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

From NARFE: "NARFE's **Legislative Action Center** is NARFE's easy way to send letters to your members of Congress, search for your legislators ... view voting records and much more." Never checked the site? Consider doing so. Haven't checked the site for a while? Consider doing so! It can be another tool for your NARFE resource toolbox.

As previously announced, Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) is retiring after his current term. As this newsletter went to press, 8 candidates are "vying for the ... 4th Congressional District." For all members in the 4th District, this will be an important race.

Need information or an update on the 2026 Washington state legislative session? A good website to use is:

<https://leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/>.

NARFE-PAC – March was NARFE's annual PAC fund-raising month. Members were encouraged to donate, maybe



add a donation, maybe become a sustainer. ALL donations help the PAC, which "protects NARFE members' pay and benefits by raising and spending money to elect members of Congress who support the federal community."

Quarterly, NARFE issues PAC reports with donation summary information. Reports for the quarter ending March 31 for the 2025/2026, 2-year congressional cycle, are now on the NARFE website under the Advocacy tab. I am again pleased to report our chapter, state and region had a strong showing. For example, once again, our NARFE region, Region IX, **STILL LED** all 10 NARFE regions in "mean average" even though Region IX is the smallest in numbers! **Thank you, supporters!**



Remembering
moms and dads,
May 10 and June 21!



Return Service Requested

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

TO:

REMINDER QUESTIONS!
Do you know your membership renewal date? *Double check!*
Are your email and mailing addresses current with NARFE? *Double check!*

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

First, a thank you: to Bill Darke and Faye Vlieger for completing the audit of the chapter’s 2025 finances; then, to Layna Kinsman and John Wetterling for filling in for me at the April chapter meeting. Great teamwork!

As of April 1, our chapter Gesa Credit Union accounts had more than \$22,800, an increase of more than \$100 since my report in the March/April chapter newsletter. It is always good to report an increase! As a reminder, the board reviews the chapter’s budget at each board meeting, so it is a working document, Questions? Contact me.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of April 17, we had **471** members – **213**/chapter; **258**/national-only in the chapter area. This is a total decrease of 10 members: 8/chapter; 2/national only. Why, you may ask? I believe primarily due to several members who have recently passed, and several who just forgot to renew! I am working to get those members to renew!



Reinstated members: Wu Chin; Stanley Janowicz; Linda Alass; Jerry White. Welcome back!

Dues Withholding: Retirees! Please consider this option! It helps avoid accidentally forgetting to renew your membership. Call me if you have any questions!

NARFE Chapter Life Members: The chapter vs. NARFE will now bill you for your chapter dues.

Snowbirds: Welcome back! Hope to see you at a chapter meeting soon.

Membership issues contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739. Email: annahojx2@gmail.com.

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Website: www.narfe1192.org.
Questions? Comments? Issues? Contact me!



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Editor’s note: Sadly, but understandably, our long-time chapter caller coordinator, Darleen Wall, will be stepping down as coordinator after the June chapter meeting. Even with her move to Arizona several years ago, Darleen remained in the position. Her dedication to the position since June 2018 has helped the chapter remain viable. This is the **ONLY CHAPTER** with this function in the Washington federation. So, a very sincere and heartfelt “thank you and all the very best” to Darleen for her years of service.



Until there is a replacement, Nancy Crosby has offered to fill in. Questions? Need info? Want to volunteer?

Contact Nancy: Email: crosbynancy56@gmail.com; (M) 509.735.3288.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the March/April newsletter.)



Members passing: Phil Craig; Mable Rutt; May D. Smith; Ardis Young. Condolences families/friends.

Thinking of you to mmember: Terese Pratt.

Know someone needing some sunshine?” Call or email me: 509.961.1095; einvlieger@aol.com.

Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

Reminders for your calendars, donating, volunteering:

- ◆ **October 7**, the chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser. **Time to ponder what to bring!**
- ◆ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Howard Amon Park, The Fingerling Stage, Richland. **New location!** The chapter has a team. Go to: www.alz.org/walk. Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in “Team Name” box.
- ◆ **November 14**, Tri-Cities Wine Festival coat check, Three Rivers Convention Center. Volunteers needed!

