

In this Edition: Voting information for NARFE and Washington State Federation Elections!

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, John Wetterling	509.948.9894
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, October 12, 1:30 p.m.)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

September 2 – Heather Hill, deputy to the health officer, is scheduled to provide an overview on the BFHD,



Benton-Franklin
Health District

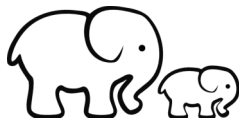
and some of its programs, e.g., the Community Health Assessment.

Menu: 1/2 Reuben sandwich, French fries, salad, dessert

October 7 – Annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Items needed! (See page 4.)

Menu: Orange chicken over jasmine rice, 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 John Wetterling by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

September – October, Volume 2026, Issue 5

President – Mary Alice Binder

Welcome to our 2026/2027 fall, winter and spring meeting season! On behalf of your chapter board, I hope you have had a safe and enjoyable summer break.



Before delving into some NARFE updates, a “Happy 55th Birthday” to our chapter! The chapter received its official charter September 17, 1971! While not as old as other Washington state NARFE chapters, it is one of only a few still open and viable! That is definitely worth noting!! *[For trivia buffs, Spokane Chapter 32, formed in 1950, is the oldest NARFE chapter in the state. At one time, there were more than 30 chapters statewide, but only 10 remain – in Eastern Washington, there were 11, only 3 remain.]*

Now, to some NARFE updates. Yes, it was a busy summer. At NARFE headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, there was an emphasis on **FEDCON26**, which got underway as this newsletter was finalized. Updates will be on the NARFE website, at the chapter’s September meeting, and in a future *NARFE Magazine*.

Leaders across our NARFE Region IX (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) have been busy planning for the Region IX Symposium, October 1-3, in Ellensburg. (See page 2, this newsletter, for more details.) If you haven’t registered, please consider doing so!

Your chapter board has remained busy since our June chapter meeting. Virtual board meetings were June 22 and August 18. **REMINDER!** These virtual meetings are **OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS!** (See details, left.)

Looking ahead, September, October and November are especially busy chapter “outreach” months. (See page 3, this newsletter for more details.)

Finally, **ELECTIONS** – for NARFE positions and for our Washington State Federation. Please **VOTE!!**

New School Year!



Be patient. Drive safely.
Help keep
our students safe!

... for Members to Continue Pondering!

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 if its 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 for a chapter meeting speaker/program, or chapter group event
- ♦ 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 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

Continued progress! As reported in the July/August newsletter, the menus have been selected for our chapter's September thru December meeting at CG Public House & Catering. (See page 1, this newsletter, for those menus.) Others are posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org.

Further, the 2027 menus have also been selected and are on the chapter website. And, most importantly, our contract is in place. **Reminder! No increase to the \$25 lunch charge.**

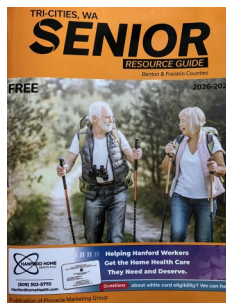
Finally, your feedback/suggestions are welcomed! They help me in my interface with my contacts at CG Public House & Catering.



Service Officer – Mary Binder (Acting)

Reminder! The 2026/2027 Tri-Cities, WA Senior Resource Guide has been distributed throughout the Tri-Cities by Pinnacle Marketing Group. (Our chapter's NARFE ad is on page 25!)

For our members in the Moses Lake, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima areas, Pinnacle has or will have guides for your areas. Contact me if you want one! NARFE ads are in each of them.



Ellen LeVee, chapter member and retired federal benefits expert, and I have had a busy summer with calls from retired federal employees with benefits questions and issues. Some "cases" are easy to resolve; others are complex. Most are not NARFE members nor familiar with NARFE, but our focus is to help them as much as possible.



NARFE FEHB/PSHB Open Season Webinar Series!

See page 11, September NARFE Magazine.

Open Season: November 9 to December 7.

(Area health fairs/other info at chapter meetings, on the website.)

Reminder! Medicare Part B – several federal plans offer premium reimbursements in varying amounts. Check your plan, and its guidance, for the reimbursement, if applicable.

Update! WISer Pilot Program –

From an article, page 8, August Senior Times (Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business supplement), "The U.S. Senate on July 16 rejected a resolution that would have halted the [WISer] model ... which was introduced by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell..." As of July, there was a U.S. House Appropriates Committee appropriations bill that would prevent further implementation. Stay tuned. If you have been affected by the pilot program and/or have questions, please contact me.



WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

- ♦ **NARFE Elections!** See pages 50-53, September NARFE Magazine. Electronic and paper ballot voting instructions are explained. **Online voting began August 26 and ends at 11:59 p.m., ET, September 30. For paper ballots, note the mailing requirements and time frames!** Summary information is also provided for the bylaw and standing rule amendment proposals. Yes, it will take some time to read through these. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me. Either way, please, PLEASE VOTE!
- ♦ **WSF elections!** Details, including for electronic voting, are on the federation website: www.narfe.org/wa/. **Voting opened August 15 and ends September 30 for the Washington State Federation executive officer positions.** There is one candidate for each position except treasurer, which has 2 – Gordon Craig and Vic Rohret. Vic, a Chapter 1192 member, is planning to attend the chapter's September meeting. Also, I will be stepping down from this VP position at the end of this year.
- ♦ **October 1-3, Region IX Symposium and WSF annual meeting in Ellensburg.** Join members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington! Details at: www.narfe.org/wa/. Yes! A GREAT meet, greet and learn opportunity.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

As I wrote in my president's article, page 1, the months of September, October and November are the chapter's busiest "outreach" months of the year. Below are future events at which we are scheduled to have a NARFE/chapter presence:

- ♦ **September 17**, the 31st Annual CommUNITY Senior Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is sponsored by **active4life**. Entry buttons, including for lunch, now on sale –\$5/cash only – at HAPO Center; Solutions In-Home Care; Family Resource Home Care; Haven Specialty Home Care; Brookdale Torbett; Richland Community Center.*
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, Fingernail Stage, Richland. (Details, page 4, this newsletter.) *
- ♦ **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.*
- ♦ **November 6**, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., HAPO Center, Pasco.*
- ♦ **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.*

active4life



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

Other announcements:

- ♦ **NARFE'S 2026 Photo Contest** – 2027 winners in the August NARFE Magazine, page 46. To order a calendar, see page 54, September magazine!
- ♦ **FEEA** – Those affected by the recent Spokane fires include some NARFE members in Spokane Chapter 32. Thoughts are with them. The Federal Employees Education & Assistance Fund has disaster relief and emergency hardship loan programs. Donations are always welcome, but even more so during such hardships as the fires. FEEA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Website: www.feea.org.
- ♦ **NARFE Upcoming Webinars** – The September NARFE Magazine has the fall webinars schedule! See page 11 for the "open season" series; page 31 for other fall webinars.



Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

With the August primary elections now history, more than ever the focus is the November 3 general elections.

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

With this in mind, Nicole Blackstone, NARFE grassroots and policy manager, has some election insights in her article, page 8, September NARFE Magazine. She wrote, "Amidst the various television networks, print publishers, and social media platforms, it can be a monumental lift to stay updated on your electoral races, and an even more difficult task to navigate conflicting narratives to arrive at the truth."

NARFE can help us navigate through the "chatter." The NARFE Magazine helps; but, the most current information is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, as it is updated weekly. Log into website, then go to Advocacy and Bill Tracker. Currently, you'll find 6 categories of bills the NARFE advocacy team is monitoring and whether NARFE supports, does not support, or has no position on a bill. As of latter August, NARFE was monitoring 70 bills! Details on each bill are also available at the site. Of all the bills NARFE is monitoring, those NARFE asks members to particularly focus on are listed in each NARFE Magazine. For example, see page 15, September issue.

PAC Update! The 6th quarter's reports for the 2-year congressional NARFE-PAC cycle ending June 30, are posted on the NARFE website. Once again, our 5-state Region IX was first of NARFE's 10 regions in



the mean contribution average! Region IX's average, \$120.07; overall average, \$82.52. **Thanks contributors!**

State Legislation: A good website for your reference:

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

Two very-well received presentations at the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby virtual August meeting are on the Lobby website homepage, waseniorlobby.org/member-organizations/. Pertaining to the recent Spokane fires, Emergency Preparedness, Wildfire Response, and Personal Preparedness; and, on new features at SeaTac International Airport, Accessibility Programs at SeaTac Airport.

Return Service Requested

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

TO:

COLA for 2027
Social Security Administration
is expected to announce the
COLA number October 14!

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At \$22,900, our chapter finances are “looking good” as I stated to the board at its August 18 meeting. Yes, it reflects an increase over the summer as we’ve had few expenses. That will change during the fall with some outreach costs, but the budget is still solid. Questions? Feel free to contact me.



Membership Coordinator – Johanna Caylor

As of August 20, we had **445** members – **208**/chapter; **237**/national-only in the chapter area. This is a decrease of 4/national only members since the numbers in the July/August chapter newsletter. While it is a smaller decline than in past reporting periods, I am still hoping to be able to report an increase vs. decline! Both NARFE and our Washington state federation are working tirelessly on this issue, especially with the national-only members. For the chapter, I am also continuing to try to recruit, retain and get members reinstated. Have ideas? Suggestions? Want to help? Please contact me.

NOTE: DATE CHANGES!

Annual 2026 NARFE Membership Drive
August 1 thru November 30!*

See page 42, August *NARFE Magazine* and inside back cover, September magazine, for details including recruiter rewards!
(*Previously, September 1 thru December 31.)

Dues Withholding: For retirees, please consider this option! It helps avoid accidentally forgetting to renew your membership.

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

Webmaster – Larry Williams

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



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATES!

Prior to the September meeting, our callers make the **annual calls to chapter members within our geographic area** to verify contact info and preferences. Please return calls when messages are left!! Our callers and the alpha letters they will call based on last names:

(A-C) Nancy Crosby	(J-M) Alicia Mercado
(D-F) Randy Grekowicz	(N-R) John Wetterling
(G-I) Janice Lake	(S-U) Gail Splett
(V-Z) Faye Vlieger	

Questions? Need info? Want to volunteer as a caller?
Contact John Wetterling:
Phone, 509.948.9894;
Email: wetterlingjohn@gmail.com.



Sunshine Coordinator – Faye Vlieger

(Since the July/August newsletter.)

Passings: Daniel O. Baker and Dave Jones, members; condolences to the families. Condolences to Mary Lynn Schmid, our Premera Blue Cross/Blue Shield rep, on the passing of her husband, Dan.

Thinking of you to: Nancy Crosby after recent surgery.
Know someone needing some sunshine?” Call or email Faye: 509.961.1095; einvlieger@aol.com.



Alzheimer’s Coordinator – Larry Williams

Reminders for your calendars, donating, volunteering:

- ♦ **October 7**, the chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser. **Think about what item/items to bring!**
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Howard Amon Park, Fingernail Stage, Richland. Our team info at: 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!

