

NARFE News

Tri-Cities Chapter 1192



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE) ASSOCIATION
ADVOCATES FOR CURRENT AND FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!!

VOLUME 2006, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006

MEETINGS: 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 11:30 AM, RED LION HOTEL AT COLUMBIA CENTER - KENNEWICK
NO MEETINGS - JULY & AUGUST

PRESIDENT REPORT (Clark Crouch) **A MAPP for 2006**

Thank you for electing me to be your president during these challenging times. It is my hope and expectation that our chapter will enjoy both increased growth and attendance during the coming year.

During my years as a management consultant following my retirement from federal service, I learned that "if you don't know where you are going, that's where you will wind up...nowhere!" As a result, I've prepared a MAPP to guide me in helping our chapter to grow and prosper in 2006:

2006 Chapter 1192 Officers

Clark E. Crouch, President, 946-1558

Carl E. Gallion, V-President,
967-9161

Joe B. Kuhns, Immed. Past Pres.,
586-6848

V. Lee Hobbs, Secretary Protem
Verneice Skinner, Treasurer,
627-2053

Lyell R. Bingham, Alzheimer's,
946-9444

Marguerite Rosson, Hospitality,
582-5995

Vacant, Legislative

Johanna Caylor, Membership/
Newsletter, 375-0739/308-6664
Cell

Wm. (Bill) Darke, NARFE-PAC,
375-7757

Clark E. Crouch, NARFE-Net
Hazel C. Elliott, Public Relations,
542-8286

Vicki A. Ravely, Public Relations,
547-3007

Mary Goldie, Co-Service Officer(s),
582-8757

Nancy Schreckhise, Co-Service
Officer, 585-7558

Anne M. Ross, Sunshine, 586-3355

Alfred J. Rizzo, Deacon, 375-0446

Estelle P. Bellefeuille,
Parliamentarian, 783-8461

Bob Lindsev, 2006 Convention

M - membership: attracting and holding new members.

A - attendance: getting more members to attend our meetings.

P - programs: offering more helpful and entertaining programs.

P - promotion: letting members and others know what we're doing.

I hope that you will help by inviting your friends, both non-members and non-attending members, to attend a meeting with you; by meeting and greeting new and prospective members who attend our meetings; and by suggesting programs which you feel would be entertaining and helpful to those who do attend our meetings.

Finally, please do sign up to attend the Washington State Convention in Richland May 15-18. You'll find a registration zero three five seven form that you can download from the internet at <http://narfe1192.org/>. IF you're not on the internet ask Johanna Caylor or Carl Gallion for a form. Together we can have a great year!

CONVENTION TIME IN THE TRI-CITIES -

So you've never been to a WSFC convention? What a treat you in Central Washington have in store for you this spring. Our own Tri-Cities Chapter is hosting our annual gathering this year of fellow NARFE'rs from around our

up to 2 people per room for ONLY \$64.00 per day (includes taxes, room, Continental Breakfast). We have plenty to keep you busy plus enjoy being part of our Convention Business sessions - meet your Federation Officers and meet them over our BBQ Dinner along the Columbia River shore. See why many of us wouldn't miss this annual event. (2007 will be hosted at the Silverdale Beach Hotel (no longer the Red Lion) by Bremerton #181 and 2008 by Walla Walla #239).

Please help us make a generous contribution to our National Charity, Alzheimer's Research. Tickets are available at 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. There are lots more surprises in store for those participating in our convention. Please see Johanna Caylor or myself to volunteer for one of the important tasks that will make our convention a success. All chapter members are welcome to register and attend. Hope to see you there. Carl Gallion, Co-Chair, Convention 2006.

beautiful state. They all want to see what we already know....Tri-Cities is a "Special Place."

Our opening ceremonies begin on May 16th at the Shilo Inn in Richland. Travel from your home or come enjoy lots of social time by staying at the Shilo....Remember,

PUBLIC RELATIONS (Hazel Elliott & Vicky Ravely)

Board Meeting and Convention Planning Meetings are held the 2nd Monday at 9:30 am at Alterra in Richland.

Chapter 1192 is hosting the **District V Meeting and Workshop** to be held on **April 19th** at the Shilo Inn. All members are encouraged to attend. Details will be provided at the March & April Chapter Meetings.

SERVICE CENTER NEWS (Mary Goldie and Nancy Schreckhise) - With the New Year we welcome your new officers and bid a fond farewell to those going on to bigger and better things. Thanks to Carl Gallion for serving as Acting Service Officer last year. We extend our most sincere and special thanks to Estelle Bellefeuille for serving as Service Officer for 25 years. Estelle did an outstanding job of enabling the Chapter to provide up-to-date information on benefits to our members. A big Thank You to Estelle and to Carl and we look forward to working with them in the future. It took two to replace Estelle and Carl. Mary Goldie and Nancy Schreckhise are the Chapter Service Officers for the coming year.

The Service Center is located in the Richland Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave., Room # 137, Phone 373-9536 and is open on Tuesday mornings 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Special thanks to all the dedicated folks who help us "man the center" on your behalf. If you are interested in volunteering at the office please contact Nancy or Mary. You may reach them at home by calling Mary Goldie at (509) 582-8757 and Nancy Schreckhise at (509) 585-7558.

The Medicare Drug Coverage should be of interest to you members and survivor annuitants on Medicare. If you are eligible for the coverage there are two dates to remember. If you have signed up for the coverage, you were eligible to start using it on January 1, 2006. Be aware that May 15, 2006, is the last day to join a drug plan without paying a penalty unless you qualify for an exception or you may call Medicare's telephone hot line at 800-772-1213. Watch for scams as companies with plans approved by Medicare will market their plans by mail and over the phone but not door-to-door. They cannot ask you to enroll over the phone if they have called you, you must call them to enroll.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has determined that all Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans offer prescription drug coverage that is equivalent to Medicare Part D's Drug coverage, so FEHB members are being advised that they do not need to purchase Part D as long as they keep their FEHB coverage.

However, if at a later time they decide to enroll in Part D (and they have not gone 63 days without FEHB coverage), they will NOT have to pay the penalty for not enrolling in Part D at their first opportunity.

HIDDEN NUMBERS – The unclaimed hidden numbers in the last issue were: **Jerry Kirk (1373), Ray Myjak (7415) and Pat Alford (8573).** Sorry! The hidden numbers are the last

four digits of members ID#. There are three (3) new hidden numbers in this issue. If you read the newsletter on our website – be sure and look closely for your number!! Print and bring it to the March or April 2006 Chapter Meeting and you will receive \$5.00 OR if you live out of state - mail the section with your ID # to Newsletter Editor and you will receive a \$5.00 reimbursement.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

February 1 – Terry Maurer, Antique Appraiser. Bring in no more than two items per attendee.

March 1 – Kristen Eby – Senator Maria Cantwell's Tri-Cities Office – National Legislative Issues

April 5 – Lew Reed, Identity Theft – Return Visit

May 3 – Leslie Smith, Seniors Legal Issues

NARFE-PAC (Bill Darke-Chairman): **"It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds" -- Samuel Adams**

MARCH is National NARFE-PAC Month. I think this quotation pretty well sums up the purpose of NARFE. As Active and Retired Federal Employees, we will certainly never be the majority. However, we can strive to create a tireless minority setting brush fires in the minds of our Congressional representatives encouraging them to maintain and improve our benefits. This will not be an easy job in the current environment.

There are more companies every day seeking to improve their short term profits through reducing and eliminating employee and retiree benefits. Only by remaining tireless in our efforts can we hope to prevent an erosion of the benefits we now have. One of the best vehicles we have for one six two three that purpose is NARFE-PAC. With your continuing support we can become more effective in achieving our organizational goals. The NARFE Magazine contains contribution forms, so please make contributing one of your New Years Resolutions!!

LEGISLATIVE (Carl Gallion-Protem) **2006 WILL REQUIRE PATIENCE AND STRENGTH** Our legislative battles in 2005 are continuing into 2006. Our primary legislative program continues to be passage of **Premium Conversion** and elimination of the Social Security **Government Pension Offset (GPO)** and **Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP.)** Efforts will continue to gain congressional support to bring these bills to the floor of both houses. Of equal concern to winning approval for these bills is our absolute necessity to preserve those benefits we already have. **War spending** continues to displace legislator's emphasis to get our legislative package passed and in force. In addition, **Hurricane relief** threatens existing earned retirement and health benefits for Federal workers by as much as \$11.6 Billion. Look to NARFE to lead the fight to preserve your share of medical insurance costs through FEHB. You can count on NARFE to call on our congressional "allies" to

stand our ground on annuity recalculations (for our CFEs - that means continued retirement calculations based on high 3 rather than the proposed high 5, which would reduce your monthly annuity amount).

Stay informed! Read your NARFE Magazine- Retirement Life. Check the NARFE web-site. And don't be afraid to stand up with your fellow-NARFE'rs. We need to be the "squeaking wheel"...to get the "grease". Communicate with your Representative or your Senators. They need to know how we feel on issues. Updated information is always available on the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org/

Local Addresses are:

Senator Maria Cantwell (D)
Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Ave. Rm G58A
Richland, WA 99352
509-946-8106 / 509 946-6937 - FAX
206-220-6400 OR 202 224-3441 (DC)
E-mail: Maria@cantwell.senate.gov
<http://cantwell.senate.gov>

Senator Patty Murray (D)
402 E. Yakima Ave. Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901
509-453-7462 / 509-453-7731 - FAX
202 224-2621 (DC) OR 206 553-5545 Seattle
E-mail: Senator_murray@murray.senate.gov
<http://murray.senate.gov>

Representative Richard "Doc" Hastings (R)
Tri-Cities Office, 2715 St. Andrew Loop - Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
509-543-9396 / 509-545-1972 - FAX
202 225-5618 / 202-225-3251 - FAX
WebSite: www.house.gov/hastings

SUNSHINE NEWS (Anne Ross) Where O' Where has Year 2005 gone - and so fast. During this time, our Chapter has lost many dear friends. We shared our sympathy with those families. We enclosed our Service Center card seven eight three six for their convenience to ease transfer of information. Now with the New Year, let us look positively to health and happiness the best we can. Please call 586-3355 to notify me of anyone you feel may need cards.

Sympathy and Condolences to the following NARFE family members and/or co-workers: Larry T. Brighton, Hazel Elliott (sister passed), H. Gerald Hicks (Honorary Member), Fred Rutt, Jr., Bernice Rhyneer (Survivor Annuitant), and Alan C. Walker (wife passed).

NEWSLETTER (Johanna Caylor-Editor): MEMBERS with email capabilities—**your newsletter will be posted on our website** www.narfe1192.org. All you have to do to receive your email copy to go to your internet and type our website name and you will find a link to click on and there it will be. IF you receive a hard copy of the newsletter and you have a computer, please send me an email and I will delete your name from the mailing list. It will be posted to our website for all members to read and/or download. (Editor)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (Johanna Caylor) **WELCOME** to our **new** chapter members **October thru December 2005**: Howard W. Browers*, Carole Ann Byrd, Virginia A. Coffman, D. Lindsey Hayes*, Nancy Hieb*, Robert J. Kowalski (BPA), Pauline E. Locher*, Tom Padgett*, David W. Roha*, and Melanie L. Wilson*.

Reinstated members: Kathleen Connor, Thomas H. Davies*, Audrey Goodbrake, Christine S. Jackson, and Larry G. Musen.

Transfer to Spouse: Mable Rutt.

Transfer Out: Virginia B. Lang (back to WA 1404).

Honorary Members (85 years young and NARFE Member 20 years) include: Dee Cohoe and Carl Frick.

Recruiters include Mary Goldie, Nancy Schreckhise, Johanna Caylor, & Carl Gallion

Dropped members – the following is a list of "dropped members" the past 90-days. If you know any of them, maybe a personal phone call from you will encourage them to renew their membership. Jay Bold*, Gary Clyma, Ronald F. Crouse*, Ernie Estrada, Patrick E. Grady, Kenneth W. Jackson, and Sara L. Rhoades. You will receive this newsletter in hopes that you will reconsider your choice and renew your NARFE membership. If you have misplaced your renewal slips, retirees can mail your \$39.00 checks to Johanna (return address) for transmittal to the National Office. If you are CFE's and need another renewal notice, please contact me.

YOUR TELEPHONE CALLERS ARE:

A-C Marilyn McNeill (946-6007)

D-E Myrtle Nesbitt (586-5629)

F-G Stella Burke (582-3953)

H Ellen Rokkan (946-1928)

I-K&O-P-Q Juanita Anderson (946-8361)

L-N & R Marguerite Rosson (582-5995)

S-T-U Ruby Ulseth (545-8028)

V-Z Vicki Ravely (547-3007)

Alternate: Irene Peddicord (946-7001)

If you have not been called (for whatever reason) – PLEASE introduce yourself to your respective caller and make your reservation. Ruby is our only "snowbird" at this time so you would call Alternate, Irene.

REMEMBER – we are all Chapter volunteers.

ALZHEIMER's REPORT (Lyell Bingham) Chapter 1192 has taken on a fund raising project to further the National goal for Alzheimer's research of **\$7 MILLION BY 2007** with a WSFC-wide raffle. We began this fund raiser (with approval of our National & Region IX Alzheimer's Chair, Don Palmer) at the Chapter January Meeting. Books of tickets have been provided to Chapters within our State for support and there is a photo of the clock in the current Federation Newsletter, the Federal Reporter. Tickets are available by contacting Johanna Caylor at 509 375-0739 or via email – caylorx2@aol.com. The winning ticket will be drawn at the 47th Annual Convention Banquet on May

18th. You need not be present to win. Sell those tickets to your neighbors, co-workers, family members. Remember **ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH!** The prize is a hand-made, battery-operated clock featuring the new NARFE logo.



Hapo Community Credit Union

601 Williams Blvd

Richland, WA 99352

1-800-284-4276 or 509-943-5676

www.hapo.org Paid For The Printing of This Newsletter.

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