



January 8 meeting: annual chapter food drive. Bring nonperishable items!

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.net Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

January – February, Volume 2014, Issue 1

2014 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Don Binder	509.585.1393
1st Vice President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director at Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Director at Large, Pat Turner	509.586.6239
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Hospitality, Carl Gallion	509.539.9179
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.588.1393
NARFE-PAC, Frank Griffin	509.492.4304
Parliamentarian, Mable Rutt	509.943.1812
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Center, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

Chapter Email: narfe1192@gmail.com

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion, Ballroom D

Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary

January 8 – Env. Ed. Director Gail Everett, City of Richland Green Living Program, will provide recycling tips for things you may not know about!
Annual Food Drive – **bring nonperishable items!**

Menu: Glazed Ham

February 5 – (Tentative) Burlington Northern: railroad crossing safety

Menu: Slow-Roasted Tri-Tip w/Garlic Potatoes

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, October 31	\$4,959.70
November income	\$ 769.52
November expenditures	\$ 408.48
Dedicated funds thru December 31	\$1,064.00
Balance on hand, November 30	\$4,256.74

(*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter web site.)

2014 chapter budget approved at December meeting.

Chapter President – Don Binder

As we begin 2014, I wish each of you a Happy New Year. May 2014 be all you hope for – both personally, and for your family and friends.

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

NARFE 2014 will be a year for our state federation convention, May 14-15, in Silverdale, and the national convention in Orlando, August 24-28. At both new officers will be elected. If you are interested in attending either as a delegate, please let me know as soon as possible. For both we are only entitled to a set number of delegates.

Besides electing officers, **2 key issues** facing NARFE before, during and after the conventions will be **membership and legislative action**. You'll find a discussion about legislation in another article in this newsletter. Regarding membership, the recently ended 6-month free membership offer for current federal employees was a success! More than 2,400 new members signed up nationwide, with 9 of them joining Chapter 1192.

2014 WSFC Convention

May 14-15

**Silverdale Beach Hotel
Silverdale, Wash.**



Details on the WSFC web site: www.narfewa.net

Now the job is to retain them AND to attract more new members. As we have said before, if each of us signed up just one new member a year, we would solve our membership problem in that year.

So, think about those you know who are eligible for membership, be they a current federal employee, retiree, spouse or survivor of a retired federal employee. Certainly most of us know someone in that category! And yes, as much as we'd prefer to have them as our chapter members, whether they join our chapter, the eNARFE chapter or another chapter throughout the nation, membership is key!

I look forward to seeing more of you at our 2014 meetings. If you need help getting to a meeting, let the caller or a board member know; we'll arrange to get you to and from the meeting 4902.

1st VP/Special Programs – Lorie Bennett

The New Year is here, so I'm definitely looking for **new ideas** for activities chapter members can do together. Museum tours? Winery tour? Boat trip? Suggestions welcome! Please contact me.

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder: tell "prospects," about our web site, www.narfe1192.org, as a resource for NARFE information, especially for the chapter, e.g., our 2014 menus, program information.



Director at Large – Steve Howes

- ◆ 35-year career, USDA Forest Service; last job, regional soil scientist, PNW region, Portland.
- ◆ 5-year retiree.
- ◆ Grew up in Everett, Wash., Everertt HS graduate.
- ◆ BS and MS, WSU, Range Management.
- ◆ Wife, Suzanne, also Forest Service retiree; met while serving on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Baker City, Ore.
- ◆ Over the years, became "diehard east-sider;" relocated to Pasco after retirement.
- ◆ Currently, volunteer with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologists on a variety of projects.
- ◆ Life-long hobby: trains and railroading. Extensive railway history book collection and more railroad equipment than I ever will need or use.
- ◆ Joined NARFE at a Forest Service reunion a few years ago; attended the December 2011 Chapter 1192 meeting and was hooked!
- ◆ Goals as a director – help the chapter and increase membership, especially current federal employees.



Director at Large – Pat Turner

- ◆ 1954, started federal career with DOE pushing the mail cart.
- ◆ 36-year government career.
- ◆ Blessed with a wonderful career, from pushing the cart to executive assistant to the manager.
- ◆ Awarded first upward mobility position as security screener for DOE-Richland.
- ◆ Worked emergency management; closeout manager for Basalt Waste Isolation Project.
- ◆ Post retirement – moved to Hanford's contractor side; still working 14 hours a week as a manager for the DOE-RL admin staff.
- ◆ July 2014 – will have 55 years on Hanford site and 5 years at DOE's Yucca Mountain Project, Las Vegas, as the DOE PM for administration.
- ◆ NARFE membership – I really enjoy and learn a lot being involved...where else could one receive all the information regarding federal benefits!



Welcome to the board, Steve and Pat!

District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Happy New Year to all! I am looking forward to an exciting year. As President Don Binder wrote, we'll have both a federation and national convention.

I had the opportunity to meet with all 3 District V chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – and to install their officers. All 3 chapters are trying to increase their membership and promote the NARFE message. At the recent federation board meeting, we learned NARFE membership had a slight increase due to the eNARFE chapter's growth, but we also had a loss of 19,300 members in 2013.



Looking way ahead, planning for the 2016 WSFC convention in the Tri-Cities is moving forward. Hotel site visits were done in November and a selection will be made soon. Stay tuned.

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

November was Alzheimer's month, and the chapter had its annual white 1669 elephant auction and fundraiser. We very successfully raised \$1,427.50! Thank you, Pam Griffin and Lorie Bennett, for your assistance in the auction.



We have now contributed \$1,600 to the state federation for Alzheimer's during the current Alzheimer's year, May 1 through April 30. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this very worthy cause.

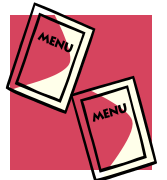
Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Thank you, callers, for all your work in 2013! Could not do it without your help! And a reminder to all members – if you receive a message from a caller, please return the call. The callers are trying to get accurate meeting/luncheon counts. Thanks!

[Ph: 509.492.4304; email: pgriff1@earthlink.net]

Hospitality Chairman – Carl Gallion

The menu selections for our 2014 lunches soon will be posted on the chapter website. After 2 years at the same price, our lunch will increase a dollar to \$15. To give members needing adequate time to plan, our executive board has agreed to cover the dollar increase for the January and February meetings.



NARFE-PAC – Frank Griffin

I am **STILL** a broken record, so yet once again repeating – requests for PAC dollars are increasing. NARFE-PAC remains "part of the solution" to making our voices heard! Therefore, your support is needed! Thank you.



Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

Now that Congress has passed the first budget resolution since 1986 with each house majority from a different party, it is quite obvious that no one got all they wanted.

That certainly holds true for the federal workforce. While present retirees and current employees were not impacted AT THIS TIME, once again Congress opted to put part of the payment for non-action on its part onto the backs of those new federal employees hired starting in 2014. As you may remember, Congress did the same thing for those who started their federal service in 2013. In both cases, they are requiring those employees to pay more toward their retirement system. Yes, this is challenging news! BUT without Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), who is the “ranking member” on the House Budget Committee and a strong backer of federal employees and retirees, this could have been MUCH worse.



Just to recap, those pre-2013 FERS-covered employees pay 0.8 percent; 2013 hires are paying 3.1 percent; and 2014 and beyond hires will pay 4.4 percent for their FERS pensions. The 10-year savings for this provision is projected to be \$6B.



Another item in the budget resolution is a long-sought “self-plus-one” coverage option within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Before this can be enacted however, OPM is required to do an actuarial study to 9090 determine the appropriate cost. Why?

Anecdotal, many believe this could be MORE expensive than the “family” option since those eligible for the option primarily would be older than those with family plans and thus use the health system more. Obviously, the real answer is unknown at this time; therefore, the OPM study.

So, you think you can rest easy now that this budget issue is over? **Do not even begin to think so!** Just ask friends who are in the military for a career or who have sons/daughters who are. This legislation SIGNIFICANTLY changed their retirement benefits. Many current career military members believe they were “promised” certain earned benefits. Sound familiar? Could something similar happen to current employees or retirees? Who knows! Stay vigilant! Keep reading and asking questions!



Contacting our Federal Legislators

The Honorable Richard (Doc) Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives

Phone: 202.225.5816; Fax: 202.225.3251
<http://hastings.house.gov/ContactForm.aspx>
2715 Saint Andrews Loop, Suite D
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509.543.9396; Fax: 509.546.1972

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514
<http://murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>
402 East Yakima Avenue, Suite 390
Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: 509.453.7462; Fax: 509.453.7731

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.3411; Fax: 202.228.0514
<http://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>
825 Jadwin Avenue, Suites 204/204A
Richland, WA 99352
Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

We cannot rest! As we’ve previously written, if you are not signed up for GEMS and thus do not know when NARFE is asking that we contact our members of Congress, let me send you the note. “Writing” to Congress is so easy! We must get more of our members doing so.

Additionally, we need to share those letters with our friends and relatives so the number of contacts made increases. Please do your part so we can maintain the benefits we have. Silence is deadly when working with Congress.



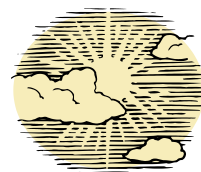
Continue to watch for NARFE GEMS updates and check NARFE’s web site, www.narfe.org. Feel free to call or email either of us: don_binder@msn.com; mary_binder@msn.com.

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences to: the family of member Stella Burke who passed away; to member Rich Wilson whose mother passed away.

Thinking of you/get well wishes: to members Pam Griffin and Ruby Ulseth after surgery.

Please continue to let me know about those needing some “sunshine,” or even a card for a special anniversary or significant accomplishment. Call, or email me: mary_binder@msn.com.



2014 New Year’s Resolution!
Check and update your NARFE records!!



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

January 8 Meeting!
Chapter Annual
Food Drive
Non-perishable
items!



Membership – Johanna Caylor **Welcome New 6-Month AFE Member:**

Brian Present from TSA

Welcome Back: Diane Berthon; Howard House;
David Langstaff

Dues Withholding: We hope to get even more retirees to convert in 2014. Why? Retirees! Help yourself and NARFE save money. With dues withholding, NARFE does not have to send a renewal notice; you save about \$6/year with automatic monthly deductions from your annuity. Also, you'll receive a one-time \$15 combined rebate from the Washington federation and our chapter. Contact me if you need information and/or the withholding form.

FEHBP Open Season: It's over! I hope you've read all the important information provided via GEMS. Looking back, Sig Preston and I were at the Federal Bldg. and the Stevens Center for the October health fairs and were able to visit with a number of current federal employee "prospects." We even recruited a few new members, whose paperwork currently is being processed at NARFE.

Snowbirds: Please, please notify me, or Treasurer Nancy Crosby, of any postal or email address changes, and then again in the spring!

Hidden numbers: November/December newsletter numbers belonged to: **Cesar Collantes; Dana Kranz; Larry Williams.** No calls, so no winners! Three new numbers are "hidden" in both the printed and electronic newsletters – the last 4 digits of a member's number. Contact me; win \$5!

NEW YEAR REMINDER!

Have an email address? We NEED it.

Email helps the chapter save money.

Example: No cost to send the newsletter electronically; about \$1/copy to print and mail. Notify Nancy Crosby, ncrosby2b@charter.net.

SERVICE OFFICE

Open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Federal Bldg., Richland, Room 137

Phone: 509.373.9536

Coordinator: 1st VP **Lorie Bennett**

Happy New Year! After a holiday break, we're **open for business**. As a new year reminder, the service office maintains records and statistics on calls and visits, including those made to members at their homes. So, if you are contacted by a member, family member of a NARFE member, prospective member or anyone else about NARFE, retirement or other benefits, etc., please let me know. My email address is: lorie@clearwire.net.



NARFE 2015 Calendar **Photo Contest**

Photo deadline: February 15, 2014

Details at: www.narfe.org

Questions: Call 703.838.7760, ext. 268,
or email: pubrel@narfe.org

REMINDERS!

NARFE on Twitter! Follow at: @narfehq

Facebook: Log onto Facebook, go to

"NARFE National Headquarters," then "Like"

NARFE Toll-Free Number: 800.627.3994;

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234

OPM: 888.767.6738, "Retirement Info Line,"

www.opm.gov/retire/; or, retire@opm.gov

PROTECT America's Heartbeat Campaign
toolkit at NARFE web site: www.narfe.org.

Look for the latest updates!

Annual NARFE Scholarship Program!
Watch for applications and details in the February
narfe magazine.