



2016 WSFC Convention Highlights and Photos, see inside!

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

2016 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2nd Vice President, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Treasurer, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Alzheimer's, Bill Darke	509.375.7757
Legislative, Mary Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Office, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

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

Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Need a ride? Contact President Lorie Bennett.

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

September 7

Highlights of the
NARFE National
Convention from
chapter attendees!



Menu: chicken club sandwich w/avocado, bacon,

Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato

October 5 – Heidi Newsome is
scheduled to give a presentation
on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
management activities in the
Hanford area. (Tentative)



Menu: individual chicken pot pies

JUNE TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, May 31	\$9,384.18
June income	\$ 822.64
June expenditures	\$ 375.84
Dedicated funds thru June 30	\$2,516.00
Balance on hand for use, June 30	\$7,314.98

(*Budget and full monthly reports are on the chapter website.)

July – August, Volume 2016, Issue 4

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

"On the road, again, Just can't wait to get on the road again ... "Yes, these lyrics describe my summer! Sound familiar? So, when you read this, I can't tell you where I'll be; but, I can tell you that NARFE is traveling with me!



How so? Electronics! Between my mobile phone and computer, I will be working to stay in touch with what is happening with NARFE! Whether it is legislative updates, calls to action, or the latest information regarding membership, all are easily accessible. But, if electronics are not your thing, there is still the *narfe* magazine – a monthly resource with much good information.

With so much happening in the political arena, with the upcoming NARFE national convention, and with ongoing NARFE membership challenges, to name just a few things, I believe that now more than ever it is important to stay informed. So, that is what I'll be trying to do. I hope you will join me in this effort to continue to stay informed, even during these summer months!

Looking ahead – the chapter board will be meeting later this summer. An agenda item will be our chapter meeting programs for the remainder of 2016 and then for 2017. We always appreciate ideas and suggestions!

Our goal is to have interesting programs and activities that will increase attendance, participation and membership. So, as you are out and about, if you hear or read about something or someone that



interests you, keep our monthly meeting programs in mind. What you find interesting, others may, too. If you have ideas or suggestions, or if you have questions, contact Secretary Mary Binder. Thanks! **7937**

See you in September! Meanwhile, I'm "...on the road again..." Hope you, too, have a safe and great summer.

1st Vice President – Pat Turner

As a first time attendee to a Washington State Federation of Chapters convention, I must say it was very informative and professionally done. Congratulations to Chapter 1192 members for their assistance in making it successful, especially to Nancy Crosby, convention chairman, and to Mary Binder for her outstanding logistical support.



Of special interest to me was the keynote speaker, Jessica Klement, NARFE legislative director, who provided a legislative update. She is well informed and a great NARFE asset. The luncheon speakers, Colleen French, speaking about the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, were also excellent. After each presentation, there was very good interaction with the questions and answers.

I am so proud to be a member of Chapter 1192 and the professional organizational skills for all aspects of the chapter. Now, I am really looking forward to August and attending my first national convention!

Enjoy a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September.

2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Yes, the chapter's website remains up and running, even though there are no chapter meetings in July and August. As I receive information, e.g., meeting minutes, treasurer's reports, programs for the meetings and even meeting menus, I post them to the website. So, remember to check this information tool!



And, let me know if you have questions about or suggestions for the website. Email me at: leapinlar@yahoo.com.

Director at Large/PAC Chair – Steve Howes

The recent Washington State Federation of Chapters convention was the first official NARFE event I have attended outside of chapter meetings and one district training program. I found it to be informative; and, it was reassuring to me to learn that we have some

highly skilled and knowledgeable people looking out for our interests at the national level.

Jessica Klement, NARFE legislative director, gave an excellent update on her staff's recent activities on our behalf. She spoke to the importance of PAC in achieving our goals. She likened NARFE's mission to a 3-legged stool in which lobbying Congress, grassroots advocacy, and NARFE-PAC all play different but equally important roles in protecting our rights and benefits. If one leg is weak or collapses, then NARFE becomes ineffective, and our benefits and other issues important to the current and retired federal work force are in jeopardy.



Leon Bennett and Steve Howes at the convention NARFE-PAC table.

Jessica's message seemed to have resonated with those in attendance. Several members from around the state enrolled as new NARFE-PAC sustainers immediately following her presentation. I understand completely that it can be difficult to willingly commit to contributing monthly to NARFE-PAC, especially when one is on a fixed income. However, supporting NARFE-PAC as a sustainer is a much more efficient way to fund the program. Contributions through the sustainer program also allow Jessica and her staff to "count on" your contributions into the future and budget accordingly.

NARFE-PAC contributions play an extremely important role in accomplishing NARFE's organizational mission. All contributions are voluntary and welcome. Again, think of NARFE-PAC as more than just the collection bowl at the end of the table at our chapter meetings. Our NARFE-PAC contributions are just as important in keeping NARFE a viable and effective organization as the dues we pay or the letters we write. Thank you for the support! **2907**



Service Office – Lorie Bennett

Long-time Service Office volunteer and chapter member, Dorothy Smith, was selected as service officer of the year for the Washington State Federation of Chapters, and for NARFE Region IX, encompassing Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Region IX VP Lanny Ross presented Dorothy a plaque at the recent WSFC convention. Congratulations, and thank you, Dorothy!



Lanny Ross, Dorothy Smith

WSFC Vice President – Nancy Crosby

The 2016 WSFC convention was very successful! We had 104 members and guests, along with informative speakers, and vendors providing a range of information from healthcare to senior living and investing. We also had wonderful chapter and individual donations for both door-prize and NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund drawings. Further, a highlight for many was learning about the Confluence project from volunteers with the Sacajawea Historical State Park.



Left to right: Chuck Eaton, Ann Eaton, Pat Turner

We had a special social reception that showcased regional wines provided by Wine Press Northwest. And the final highlight for 23 members – a guided tour of the B Reactor Historical Landmark site the morning after the convention. (Photo below)



You'll read elsewhere in the newsletter about the NARFE-PAC and Alzheimer's Research Fund donations at the convention. You'll also read about the special recognition for Dorothy Smith, our long-time service office volunteer. (Dorothy retired in December as a service office volunteer.) You'll also read about the chapter's Alzheimer's donations and membership efforts for the past 2 years!

The federation paid a \$50 scholarship to all members attending the convention. I was especially pleased that all 3 District V chapters further helped by paying the remainder of their attendees registration costs.

Attendee evaluations scored the convention as above average, overall, with the facility, food and hotel receiving high marks. We had a first-class event and met all expenses with a small profit.



I want to thank all Chapter 1192 members who pitched in and helped make this convention such a success. It was definitely a team effort and helped us achieve our convention goal – a **BIGGER, BETTER, BOLDER NARFE!**

At the convention, I was elected to serve a 2-year term as federation vice president. I have so enjoyed my 2 terms as the District V vice president and am now looking forward to this new challenge.



Left to right: Ida Sevier, Anne Kush, Nancy Crosby, Rich Wilson

Also during the convention elections: Rich Wilson was re-elected federation president; Ida Sevier was elected the new secretary; and, Anne Kush was elected as treasurer, the position she has been filling since last year due to a vacancy.

Looking ahead, I will be attending the national convention along with 7 other chapter members. There are many national issues that will be addressed to help NARFE grow and better serve our members.



Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

At the WSFC convention, we had a fundraiser for NARFE Alzheimer's. Chapter member Jim Partridge and I, along with Johanna Caylor and help from the Yakima chapter, sold tickets for drawings for the many donated items. With our combined efforts, we raised \$632!



Left to right: Bill Darke, Jim Partridge

Also at the convention, Bob Elmore, WSFC Alzheimer's chairman, presented Chapter 1192 a citation for outstanding contributions to the NARFE Alzheimer's program for the past 2 years – the most in the federation. Thank you to all!



Bob Elmore, Bill Darke

Legislative – Mary Binder

Well, summer is definitely heating up – both outside, as the thermometers show, and also in the political arena here and abroad. Wow! We are living in interesting, sometimes heartbreaking, but also definitely challenging times. I don't even want to ask, what next!

More and more, I appreciate all that the NARFE Legislative Department is doing for us in the political arena. We were so fortunate to have Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director, at our WSFC convention. As both our 1st VP Pat Turner and Director at Large/PAC Chairman Steve Howes wrote in their articles, she provided excellent information and is a NARFE asset.



Jessica Klement

Jessica and her team are providing NARFE members a wealth of information, and in a variety of formats. Whether in the monthly *narfe* magazine, on the NARFE website, or in emails, so much important information for both current and retired federal employees is literally at our fingertips! **8519**



As Chapter President Lorie Bennett wrote in her article, she is working to stay in touch even while on the road this summer as it is important to do so. We are just living in a time when, more than ever, things are changing, and often very quickly, whether on the local, state, federal, national or international level.

So, some information and reminders:

- ♦ August 2, state primary! Ballots will be out around mid July, and will include everything from candidates running for our district's U.S. House of Representatives seat to local initiatives. **Yes, your vote counts!**
- ♦ Pasco was recently chosen as 1 of 5 debate sites for either the U.S. Senate or the governor's race. Exact date and race will be announced later this summer. To note, the current U.S. Senate has 54 Republicans and 45 Democrats, including one independent. There are 34 seats up in 2016 of which 24 are held by Republicans. Democrats would need to gain 4 or 5 seats to take control.
- ♦ At the state level, besides elections, state budgets issues will continue to be front and center.
- ♦ A source you may find helpful for political information, both for federal and state issues, is: www.ballotpedia.org.
- ♦ Last year's OPM data breach is still in the news. NARFE continues to have updated information on its website, www.narfe.org.
- ♦ "Tiny rise" in Social Security is possible for 2017.
- ♦ Acting on NARFE's calls to action is critical!



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 #135, Richland, WA 99354

Phone: 509.713.7374; Fax: 509.713.7377

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate

Phone: 202.224.2621; Fax: 202.224.0514

<http://www.murray.senate.gov/email/index.cfm>

402 East Yakima Ave., 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://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

825 Jadwin Ave., Stes 204/204A, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

Repeating from previous newsletters, here are the "how-to-steps" for "acting" when NARFE asks members to send letters to our elected officials:

- ♦ Sign in as a member on the NARFE website.
- ♦ On the homepage, click Departments, Legislation, Legislative Action Center, Contact Congress.
- ♦ Enter your ZIP or ZIP+4 Code, then click Go.
- ♦ Select an "issue" under Take Action.
- ♦ Complete your contact information.
- ♦ Click Go to Letter.
- ♦ Select the letter you want to send.
- ♦ Click Submit.

That's it! It is that easy, it is free, and so important!

IRS Consumer Alert (IR-2016-89)

The IRS recently published good-giving practices as a reminder to taxpayers. It covers 4 specific areas: 1) Giving to **recognized charities** with long-standing, good reputations; 2) Phantom charities with **similar names** to the respected charities; 3) Not giving **personal information** over the phone, e.g., SSN, credit and bank numbers; and, 4) Generally avoiding giving **cash gifts**. (Note: IRS Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions*, has more details.)

Published June 24, 2016

Public Relations/Outreach – Mary Binder

NARFE and Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 were represented again at this year's annual Senior Life Show, Thursday, June 9, Three Rivers Convention Center. Chapter members Liz Bowers, Nancy Crosby and Pat Turner helped me at the table. The life show grows each year in the number of vendors and attendees, and is yet another good way for us to let the community know about NARFE and our chapter.



Nancy Crosby and Mary Binder



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

FEHBP Health Fairs, July 27!

Federal Bldg., Richland,

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Stevens Center, afternoon

Membership – Johanna Caylor

Resinstatement: Jill Fennell ... Welcome Back!

Dues withholding: Jim Partridge

Recruit! Retain! The Washington State Federation of Chapters is again offering its chapters a \$20 rebate for each new chapter member recruited during the year. This offer runs through December.

Attention All Members! Please share your contact information with us and/or change in mail or email delivery status so we do not don't have mail and emails returned as undeliverable! Questions? Call me, 509.375.0739, or send me an email at, caylorx2@aol.com.

Hidden numbers: May/June newsletter numbers belonged to: Dana Alderson; Sandra Cook; Myrna Partida. No calls; no winners. Three new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of your NARFE number**. Find yours; win \$5! Call me, 509.375.0739, or let me know at a meeting! Remember, only one winner in 2015 ... we're trying to at least double that in 2016! Forgot your number? Check the label on your narfe magazine.



Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536. Visitors welcome!



Also, check out a new member-only resource – the **NARFE Federal Benefits Institute!** See NARFE's website, www.narfe.org! Upcoming “webinars” will cover post retirement, FEHBP and Medicare, and the “alphabet soup” of health plans.

Congratulations Johanna Caylor!

At the May WSFC Convention, WSFC Membership Chairman Frances Titus presented a certificate of achievement to Johanna Caylor for Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 “in recognition of outstanding achievement for greatest percentage of net membership totals all chapter category since the 2014 federation convention.” Thank you, Johanna, for all your membership efforts!



Left to right: Johanna Caylor, Frances Titus

Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Condolences: to member Mary Goldie on the death of her sister, Bernice, to Nadine Highland on the death of her husband, Michael McCoy, and to Dyanna Forsythe on the death of her partner Robert Pringle; to the families of members Ben Brown and Carolyn Reeploeg on their passing; and to May Shell on the passing of her husband Paul (Tacoma chapter member and former WSFC secretary). **Thinking of you:** to members Annette Erdman and Bill Hoyt; and, Jerry Owens (Walla Walla chapter president) **Reminder:** Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Prior to the September chapter meeting, our callers will make their **annual calls to all members to verify information**. Please help our callers by taking their calls or returning them if they leave messages. This is an important annual endeavor to help ensure we have correct information. If you need, my contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304; Email: pgriff1@earthlink.net**.



**THANK YOU
FOR THE CALL!**