

REMINDER! Elections are coming for NARFE and Washington State Federation Officers.

2024 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Vice President, Mary Binder	509.378.2494
Secretary, Debbie Carlson	509.380.7210
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
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
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Nancy Crosby (Acting)	509.735.3288
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., Clover Island Inn, Kennewick

Lunch: \$25; **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

(Vegetarian meals available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

Mark your calendars: September 4, October 2!

*Mark
your
Calendar*

To note! Currently, the chapter's meetings through the end of the year will continue to be at Clover Island Inn, Kennewick, with the lunch meals catered by CG Public House. However, with the sale of the Inn earlier this year and the new owners' planned renovations, the chapter's board of directors is using the summer months to explore other locations. Updates and more details will be in the September/October chapter newsletter and posted on the chapter website: www.narfe1192.org. For questions, suggestions, etc., contact President Nancy Crosby or VP Mary Binder.

***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.

July – August, Volume 2024, Issue 4

President – Nancy Crosby

I certainly want to wish everyone a wonderful summer! Whether you have travels planned, plans for time with family and/or friends, or just plans to stay closer to home and kick back, I hope your plans are enjoyable, and that you remain healthy and safe. For me, time on the Oregon coast is calling, and also, obtaining a travel trailer so my family can do some camping.



Several chapter members, along with family and friends, kicked off the summer at a Dust Devils baseball game! It was a fun time ... good food and great seating, and the time to socialize with members was special.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR! We will be going to another game Saturday, September 7. Cost is \$30, which includes admittance, BBQ and reserved seating. I will send out more information before our September chapter meeting, but you can reserve a space now by contacting me.



As I announced in the May/June chapter newsletter, at our recent chapter meetings, and as noted in column 1, this page, we are again searching for a new meeting location. A quick survey at our June meeting was very encouraging and enlightening. For example, members indicated they would still come to meetings even if we could not serve a lunch. We are taking your comments, suggestions and opinions to heart as we work to find another meeting venue. Member input is still welcomed! Contact me, or VP Mary Binder, if you have input and/or questions or need more information.

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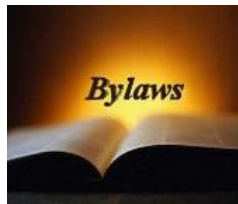
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We are very fortunate to have such an active chapter! I learned recently that another chapter in our NARFE Washington State Federation, Sno-King Chapter 1966, is closing. The chapter has about 80 members. I believe as long as we have interesting meetings, programs and activities, AND have members willing to help lead the chapter, that we can continue to have a viable chapter.

Please know I appreciate each and every member – whether chapter or national-only, whether they can attend a meeting or not, whether they can be actively involved or not. I am looking forward to seeing members at our September meeting, including, hopefully, some new members! Meanwhile, take care!

Vice President – Mary Binder

Great news! NARFE Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Hensley recently approved the revised Washington State Federation bylaws as submitted. No changes or questions! So now, President Nancy and I are moving forward with revising the chapter's bylaws.



As I wrote in the May/June newsletter, our bylaws were last updated in 2018. They are on the chapter website, www.narfe192.org, under “Chapter News” and are a good overview of how our chapter is structured. Please take the time to read them and then if you have questions and/or comments, please let me know. Thank you!
(Note: Need a printed copy? Please contact me.)

Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

Reminder! The new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program WILL AFFECT current and retired U.S. Postal Service employees effective January 1. **This change continues to raise questions even with non-postal current employees and retirees!**

For example, several non-postal FEHB program enrollees with “postal carrier” health plans such as Mail Handlers and National Association of Letter Carriers, have asked if they would be able to keep their plans, that is, would they still be offered in the FEHB program? We just recently learned the answer is, yes. There will be 3 postal carrier plans in the FEHB program and the same 3 in the new PSHB program.

Information on the PSHB program can be found at: www.KeepingPosted.org; www.narfe.org; www.opm.org. Also, please feel free to contact me, or VP Mary.



FREE ... such a nice word to read when it brings something beneficial such as the webinars offered through the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute. A good example is the recent “Postal Health Benefits Program: What You Need

to Know.” If you missed this webinar, it is archived on the NARFE website, including the follow-on Q&A session.

Looking ahead, the next NARFE webinar, “Thrift Savings Plan: Should I Stay or Should I Go,” is July 25, 2 p.m., ET. An online Q&A session follows. Can't make it on the 25th? The webinar and Q&A session will be archived. For details and to register, visit the NARFE website.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

It is a busy summer! Several things to highlight:

- ♦ WSF President Cray Henry sent an email via FEDHub, June 29, to WSF chapter and national-only members (with email addresses available to receive electronic NARFE updates) announcing that the WSF 2025-2026 officer nominations are now open. ***(If you did not receive his email, please let me know.)*** President Henry asked members to consider running for WSF president, VP, secretary, treasurer, or Eastern and Western Washington district VPs “to help lead us into the future.” Details, including the nomination form, are on the WSF website, www.narfe.org/wa/. Forms are due by August 29. The WSF nominating committee will then vet the applications. Voting will be electronic between September 14 and October 14. Results will be announced and officers installed at the WSF annual meeting, October 24, which will be held in conjunction with the Region IX Symposium (see below.) If you need a paper application form or ballot, please contact me!
- ♦ Member Janice Lake and I are planning to attend **FEDcon24**. We will provide highlights at the September chapter meeting.



- ♦ And, further ahead, I hope you have marked your calendars for October 24-26, the NARFE Region IX Symposium at the Three Rivers Convention Center,



THREE RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER

Kennewick. Members from the region's 5 states – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – will be attending. NARFE President Bill Shackelford is scheduled to attend. Additional presentations from NARFE staff are on the agenda along with other information sessions. A health fair is planned as open season will be November 11 to December 9. Other events include an evening social, sit-down dinner with entertainment, and a memorial service. This is a great opportunity to meet other NARFE members while not having far to travel. Registration information will be in the next newsletter, on the chapter website and at the September chapter meeting.

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WSF President Henry recently wrote, "Recruitment needs to be our primary objective." So, I am repeating what I wrote in the last newsletter, that is, think what a difference it could make if each NARFE member could RECRUIT JUST ONE NEW MEMBER! Don't think you know anyone who could be a member? Think about family members, friends, neighbors, friends of neighbors, even your mail carrier! Often I see "light bulbs" come on as these possibilities come to light!



Some personal examples to help illustrate how this can work. I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers. One brother has a neighbor who is a retired federal employee. He now has NARFE information. Recently, I was at a sister's home for an event and learned one of the attendees is a current USPS employee, and had just learned about the PSHB program and was concerned. I had information with me to give to her and was able to ease some of her concerns. She has my contact information. My other sister recently wrote, "I am doing your job for you!" She had talked to the spouse of a current VA employee about NARFE and was able to refer the spouse to the NARFE website. I share these examples to show how recruiting can work.

Public Relations – Mary Binder

Efforts to "outreach" about NARFE are ongoing, even during the summer. Some upcoming events are listed below. Contact me if you want to attend/have questions:

- ♦ Wednesday, July 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Red Lion Hotel/Conference Center, Pasco, Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) luncheon. Program: "Members of the Tri-Cities Strategic Alliance will discuss their innovative partnership designed to lead regional collaboration." Cost: \$34.
- ♦ Wednesday, August 28, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, TCRCC luncheon. Program: Congressman Dan Newhouse's annual legislative update. Cost: \$34.
- ♦ Thursday, September 12, 29th Annual Community Senior Picnic, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., HAPO Center, Pasco. Hosted by **active4life**. Tickets, \$5/each. Available at the Kennewick, Pasco and Richland Parks and Recreation offices starting August 1.
- ♦ Tuesday, October 15, the fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick. Free admission.

Special thanks to chapter volunteers, Debbie Carlson, Johanna Caylor, Alicia Mercado, Faye Vlieger and John Wetterling, for helping at the Veterans' Service Fair, May 11, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick. Many interesting conversations with vets, families and vendors!

Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

Oh, my, what challenging times we are experiencing! I often hear my mother's voice, "It could be worse."

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>

402 East Yakima Ave., Suite 420, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509.453.7462; Fax: 509.453.7731

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

That is true. So, I want to focus on "positives."

First, NARFE continues to advocate for all of us, with a primary focus on maintaining current benefits. Between almost daily electronic updates and recap information in each *NARFE Magazine*, we can stay abreast, and then, hopefully, be involved in what NARFE is advocating on our behalf.



So, how does this process work? That is, how does the NARFE leadership know what is important to members? How are decisions made regarding what to advocate for or against? In the June/July *NARFE Magazine*, page 8, there is an excellent article on the process. If you haven't done so, I encourage you to read it.

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month! Why August? Typically, that is when most of our U.S. elected officials are home in their districts/states. It is why, for example, the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce schedules its annual congressional legislative update as its August luncheon program. (See left column, this page.)

So how can we help NARFE to help us? While talking with our elected officials can be ideal, it is not always possible nor something everyone feels comfortable doing. An option is supporting NARFE's "calls to action." Sending a message to our lawmakers through NARFE's Legislative Action Center is quick and easy. Writing letters with personal examples of how you have been/are impacted by a piece of legislation also helps. And of course, vote ... to help elect officials who support the federal community!

This is also where NARFE-PAC plays a KEY role! It helps maximize the influence of the federal community by pooling contributions from thousands of NARFE members so the interests of federal workers and retirees are first. **Please help with a contribution!**



Return Service Requested

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

TO:

REMINDER!
VOTE

Primary Election, August 6

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The chapter's finances remain solid and within budget. As of the end of June, the chapter had about \$21,600 in its Gesa Credit Union accounts. Bills are paid, and additional stamps purchased prior to the 5-cent increase July 14! If you need more details on the chapter's finances, please contact me.

Looking ahead – 2 things. As I wrote in the last chapter newsletter, printing and mailing newsletters is our biggest expense. If you receive a mailed copy, please consider changing to an electronic copy, if that can work for you. Let President Nancy know if you can make the change. Second, before too long, I will be starting work on the chapter's 2025 budget. If you have questions, need more information and/or have input, please let me know.

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of May 24, our chapter had **493** members – **235**/chapter; **258**/national-only in the chapter area. This is an overall drop of 10 members since my last report. I have been working to get dropped members back on the roles!

Budget

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Congratulations to our newest chapter "distinguished members," that is, those with at least 20 years NARFE membership. Thru July, our new "DMs" are: Dennis Brown; Mark Chambers; Julie Erickson; Rudolph Garcia; Kathryn Hintzen; Ellen LeVee; Richard Mayo; John Trevino; Stephen Willet.

Dues withholding: Painless! Only \$4.33/month! Send NO MONEY with your application or renewal form. I can help you with the process. Currently, the chapter has 109 members enrolled in "DW!" This is good!
Contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739;
Email: annahojx2@gmail.com.

CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS!

From your chapter calling team, we hope members are having a beautiful and safe summer!

Looking ahead, a reminder! Our callers will make their ANNUAL CALLS TO LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERS just prior to the September chapter meeting. We do this annually to help ensure we have correct contact information and preferences. **PLEASE return the calls!**



Contact info: Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765; Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

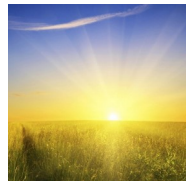
(Since the May/June newsletter.)

Members who passed: Joe Andreasen; Richard Bradley; Carl Gallion; Mitsuko Loth; John Wagoner (former member); and, husband of member Therese Sannar.

Thinking of you wishes to members:

Dyanna Forsythe; Scotty Kruschke.

Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, 509.961.1095, or email me, einvlieger@aol.com.



Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams

The Alzheimer's Association announced July 2 the FDA has granted "traditional approval" of the drug Donanemab [Kisunla]. Details at the "News" tab, www.alz.org.

Our "Walk" will be Saturday, October 19, John Dam Plaza, Richland! Our chapter team is registered. To register and/or to donate, go to www.alz.org/walk. Click "Find A Team." Type "NARFE Chapter 1192" in "Team Name" box.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder! Watch for chapter news/updates at: www.narfe1192.org. WSF website is: www.narfe.org/wa/.

