



April Meeting: Antique Appraisals! Bring 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

2015 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
Legislative, Don & Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.308.6664
NARFE-PAC, Steve Howes	509.851.4913
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.585.1393
Service Center, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
11:30 a.m., Kennewick Red Lion

Lunch: \$15; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Need a ride? Contact President Don Binder.

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

March 4 – Lynn Tompkins, executive director,
Blue Mountain Wildlife: an overview of the
Wildlife's mission. (Expect some birds, too!)

Menu: oven-roasted Tilapia w/lemon-garlic sauce

April 1 – Terry & Kathy Maurer,
antique appraisers:
updates on current trends, and
appraisals.



**(Bring small items for appraisal,
but no weapons!)**

Menu: vegetables & pasta in a pesto-cream sauce

JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, December 31	\$10,051.52
January income	\$ 1,701.60
January expenditures	\$ 782.47
Dedicated funds thru January 31	\$ 1,883.00
Balance on hand, January 31	\$ 9,087.65

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

March – April, Volume 2015, Issue 2

Chapter President – Don Binder

As the grass begins to turn green, and trees, shrubs and flowers start to bloom, we know that longer daylight is rapidly coming our way. Without the snow and horrid temperatures in many parts of the country, it is just another reason why our "little corner" of the Pacific Northwest is a great place to live.



Regarding NARFE, our chapter is actually growing in membership. But with that said, knowing that each of us knows at least someone who is eligible to join NARFE but has not done so, we remain "front-line" recruiters. Please do all you can to aid in continuing our chapter's membership growth ... just as the Tri-Cities itself continues to grow. And to help with recruiting, the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) is continuing the \$20 "reward" to chapters for each new member recruited this year. The "reward" will be paid at the end of 2015. Although you know the importance, this is just another reason to recruit new members.



I know health benefits open season is behind us, but for those turning 65, (OK, yes, I know many of us are past that number!) the question of having both Medicare and a plan under the FEHBP comes up frequently. While this remains an individual decision and we only provide answers to questions, the NARFE New York federation has a very insightful website on this subject, narfeny.wix.com/coach#!pros-and-cons/cr2d. If you don't have a computer and want to see what it says, give me a call and I'll do my best to get you the information.

As we get closer to springtime, we look forward to seeing those of you who may have stayed indoors during the winter, or maybe were snowbirds elsewhere, at our March and/or April meetings. **5240**

**We believe the key to our
continued success in working with
Congress is "strength in numbers."**



1st VP/Service Office – Lorie Bennett

Want to know more about the early days of Chapter 1192? Just stop by the chapter's service office any Tuesday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Federal Building, Richland. Besides learning more about the chapter's history, you can also learn more about the NARFE material in the office and the type of information the volunteers can provide. So, consider scheduling a visit and remember, our Chapter 1192 service office is now **the only** such office in the NARFE Washington State Federation of chapters.



2nd VP/Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder! The 2015 meeting menus are on the chapter website. Also, you'll find the projected meeting programs, along with chapter and board minutes, and chapter financial information. Find all this and more on our chapter website, www.narfe1192.org.



Director at Large – Pat Turner

Right now is a very important time to be involved in NARFE and our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192. With the new Congress, there are many proposed legislative actions that affect our rights and earned benefits as current and retired federal employees. You can read about proposed legislation online on the NARFE website or in the *narfe* monthly magazine; but to me, it is much more interesting to hear President Binder give a legislative review at each meeting. So, I encourage all members to attend our monthly meetings to keep informed.



CONGRESS

District V Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Membership: As of February 6, NARFE reported District V membership at 663. In 2014 we added 61 new members. The new-member recruiting incentives last year were very helpful! However, between November and February, 13 members were dropped for nonrenewal and only 7 members reinstated. So, our recruiting work continues.

Special Projects: Planning is progressing for the 2016 WSFC Convention at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, which District V is hosting. I will be meeting with the district's chapters (Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima)

to recommend activities essential to a successful convention, and I'll be working with the WSFC president to have a NARFE representative attend. Also, I'm planning to have

2016 WSFC Convention

May 15-17, 2016

Three Rivers Convention Center and
Marriott Springhill Suites, Kennewick
Mark your calendars!
Volunteers needed!



a District V workshop, tentatively May 28, that will include 2016 convention planning. The new hotel, now attached to the convention center, has been sold but our contract will be honored with the same terms and conditions.

Information and registration forms were sent to all WSFC district chapters to encourage participation in the Region IX Leadership Training Workshop, Clackamas, Ore., that will immediately precede the Oregon federation convention. The workshop is noon to noon, Saturday to Sunday, May 2-3. This is a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE and to meet other members from throughout the region (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington).

To encourage participation in training, at its February 12 meeting, the WSFC executive board agreed to provide a \$350 stipend to members attending the March biennial legislative training workshop in Washington, D.C., and to reimburse the registration fee for members attending the Region IX leadership training workshop May 2-3. **7673**

Alzheimer's Research – William Darke

NARFE is progressing toward its new cumulative goal of \$12 million for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund by the 2016 NARFE convention.

Alzheimer's doesn't discriminate. Many of us have had family members develop this disease, so we know first hand what a problem it is. It has also affected the rich and famous, such as President Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Senator William Proxmire, and actors Charles Bronson, Peter Falk and Charlton Heston, to name a few. So, please give generously to help eliminate this terrible disease. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible, if you itemize expenses on your tax return.

alz.org® | alzheimer's association®

As of February, our chapter donation total for the current WSFC Alzheimer's funding year, May 1 through April 30, was \$2,448, a chapter record!

Legislative – Don and Mary Binder

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, we are scheduled to be at the biennial NARFE Legislative Training Conference, Washington, D.C. The training is held every other March in conjunction with a new Congress taking office. Our focus is to get: the latest updates on legislative actions; an in-depth look at NARFE's policy issues and grassroots resources; and, "lobby-day" topics. There will also be sessions on NARFE-PAC updates. We'll hear from various members of Congress, both democrat and republican, on how they view issues relevant to NARFE. The final day we'll be on Capitol Hill. A goal is to meet with our new congressman, Dan Newhouse. We'll provide conference highlights at our April chapter meeting.

Currently, some key bills have been introduced in the House that would impact recent federal hires. The Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act would repeal the increased retirement contributions those hired since January 1, 2013, have been paying. The Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act would provide 6 weeks paid leave to federal employees for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child. The Federal Adjustment to Income Rates (FAIR) Act of 2015, a bill also recently introduced in the Senate, would boost federal employee pay by 3.8 percent in 2016. You can follow the action on these, and other bills NARFE is tracking, in either the *narfe* magazine or online at NARFE's Legislative Action Center, <http://cqrcengage.com/narfe/home>.

These bills would have an impact on our members who are current federal employees. We need to ensure we keep their interests just as much in the forefront of our legislative agenda as those impacting retirees and annuitants. **6207**

And closer to home, but also important to NARFE, is state legislative advocacy. We'll be discussing this more as time goes on, but with our Washington State legislature currently in session, you may want to track bills being considered and other information. Go to: <http://washingtonstatewire.com>. Besides the information, you can also sign up at the site to receive weekly news alerts. Another site also with state legislative information is: <http://leg.wa.gov>.

Let us know if you have questions or concerns on the above or any other legislative actions; and again, we'll provide legislative conference highlights in April.



**NARFE 2015 LEGISLATIVE
TRAINING CONFERENCE**

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>

402 East Yakima Ave., Ste. 445, Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509.452.3243; Fax: 509.452.3438

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

NARFE-PAC – Steve Howes

While collecting contributions at our February chapter meeting, I overheard someone say they were reluctant to contribute to NARFE-PAC because they failed to see progress on some issues important to them. I understand that progress, or even maintaining the status quo, can be slow or difficult to achieve given the nature of politics and the complexities inherent in our system of government. However, that does not mean we should either give up or be hesitant to contribute to one of the few avenues open to us to influence the legislative process in our favor.



In the February *narfe* magazine, President Richard Thissen said, "Now that the new Congress is in place, the work to preserve our benefits begins in earnest. Please stay vigilant for our action requests; we need to ensure that we are heard on Capitol Hill."

Contributions to NARFE-PAC are the primary means by which we can make our collective voice heard in the "Halls of Congress." Yes, our dues help support the efforts of NARFE's permanent, professional staff in Washington; but, it is our contributions to NARFE-PAC that help support the election campaigns of members of Congress who support legislation important to NARFE.

Simply coming to meetings and throwing a few dollars in the NARFE-PAC bowl are not the only things one needs to do for NARFE to achieve its mission. It is also our collective responsibility to keep abreast of what is happening through the NARFE bill tracker and legislative achievements section in the *narfe* magazine. **Remember NARFE's mission: To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests ...**



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

March is NARFE-PAC Month!

See the March *narfe* magazine, pages 22-30, for information, Qs and As, and more. Also, see the PAC article, page 3, this newsletter. Remember — political campaign requests are year round!



Membership – Johanna Caylor

New member: Brenda Houser (correction to January/February newsletter)

Welcome back: Thomas Davies; Ralph Russell; John Trevino

Transfer in: Hazel Bugher; Doug Chapin

Retirees! I'm sounding like a broken record, but yes, dues withholding saves you money! Receive a one-time, \$15 combined rebate from our WSFC and chapter for signing up. Only \$3.67/monthly taken from your annuity. Call me, 509.308.6664, if you need information and/or the withholding form.

Interesting chapter stats: As 2014 ended, our chapter had: 92 dues-withholding members; 72 members as current federal employees; 32 life members; 27 in the new distinguished member category and only one remaining in the former honorary category. (When I joined NARFE in 1988, the chapter had more than 15 honorary members!) Thanks to all for your continued membership.

Snowbirds: Welcome back! Hope to see you at a chapter meeting; and, please let me, or Nancy Crosby, know if you have an address change.

Hidden numbers: January/February newsletter hidden numbers belonged to: Juanita Anderson; Bruce Henrickson; Jim Peterson. No calls; no winners! Find 3 new numbers "hidden" in this newsletter – the last 4 digits of a member's number. Contact me, 509.308.6664, and win \$5.

NARFE 2015 Scholarship Competition

Applications accepted thru April 24.

Go to: www.narfe.org.

Click on the Scholarship Program graphic on the home page.



Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

Help our callers! If they leave a message, please return their call. This helps with our lunch count. Thanks! And, if you need, my contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304;** email: pgriff1@earthlink.net.



Sunshine News – Mary Binder

Sympathy cards sent to: member Joanne Shadel on her mother's passing; and, Joyce Young whose husband and NARFE member, Richard Young, passed away recently.

Thinking of you card to: member Dee Knuter, hoping she'll feel better soon.

Reminder: Know someone needing a little "sunshine" or a special-occasion card? Call me, or email me at: mary_binder@msn.com.

Chapter 1192 Service Office – open Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Federal Bldg., Room 137, Richland. Phone: 509.373.9536.



Remembering
all of you this
Easter and Passover.

