



REMINDER! Chapter's Annual Food Drive, March Meeting! See Page 1.

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

2018 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Lorie Bennett	509.531.2745
1st Vice President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
2nd Vice President, John Cavanaugh	509.528.0130
Secretary/Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Director-at-Large, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Director-at-Large, Bob Stewart	509.531.3118
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Legislative, Mary Binder	509.585.1393
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.375.0739
NARFE-PAC, Bob Stewart	509.531.3118
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: \$18; 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.

March 7 – Bill Kitchen, director, Tri-Cities Food Bank, will discuss the food bank – its operations and needs.

Menu: grilled chicken breast, fresh mozzarella, roasted tomato, roasted veggie couscous, French green beans

Bring nonperishable food, cash or check!

April 4 – Tim Steinert, a financial advisor, will provide information on estate planning. **Menu:** grilled beef, broccoli with a teriyaki sauce, rice



JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT*

Balance forward, December 31	\$ 10,776.00
January income	\$ 738.34
January expenditures (w/\$5K to new GESA account)	\$ 5,524.05
Dedicated funds thru January 31	\$ 5,094.00
Balance on hand, January 31	\$ 896.89
(*Full reports are posted monthly on the Chapter website.)	

March – April, Volume 2018, Issue 2

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Spring is almost here! Let's spring into action to search out new members and remind those who have lapsed to re-join. Also remember – **Daylight Saving Time begins March 11. Spring your clocks forward!**



Looking ahead, the WSFC biennial conference will be May 14-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, Spokane Valley, Wash. The federation is providing a \$50 "scholarship" to all federation members who attend the conference to encourage attendance and help offset costs. The application form reflects this. Further, our chapter is providing a \$100 scholarship to chapter members who attend. So, let's step up, get out of our comfort zones and attend the conference.



NARFE President Richard Thissen recently reminded members to contact our senators and congressmen regarding our benefits and annuities. The president's proposed budget is targeting what we have worked for and paid into. For too long, Congress has been using our funds to supplement deficits. Step up. Voice your opinion to the people we voted for to protect our benefits.

The chapter's board of directors is planning 2 chapter "outings" in the next few months. The first is an area cruise on **the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler, which returns to the Tri-Cities April 20-29**. The second would be a Dust Devils baseball game in June. Sign-up sheets and more details will be at upcoming chapter meetings. For those not able to attend the meetings and wanting more information, please call me. **3372**

Thank you for supporting Chapter 1192. And to all, Happy Easter and Passover.



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The audit of the chapter's 2017 financial records was conducted in January. All records were in order. A special thank you to Nancy Crosby, our chapter's treasurer for many years, for her accurate recordkeeping.



On a separate note, I came across an FDA press release recently that I think is important. The FDA has "...permitted marketing of the first blood test to evaluate mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), commonly referred to as concussion, in adults. The TDA reviewed and authorized for marketing the Banyan Brain Trauma Indicator in fewer than 6 months as part of its Break-through Devices Program."



WSFC President – Nancy Crosby

Plans are well underway for the WSFC conference. As President Lorie wrote, page 1, the conference is scheduled for May 14-16, Mirabeau Park Hotel & Conference Center, Spokane Valley. Registration and hotel information, and forms, are on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net; and, copies will be available at upcoming chapter meetings. **To note, the phone number to make a hotel reservation has been corrected. It is 509.924.9000. Also to note, the "scholarship" information in Lorie's article – \$50 from the federation and \$100 from your Chapter 1192.**

Barb Sido, NARFE's executive director, is the scheduled NARFE guest speaker. Further, there will be a variety of interesting and informative programs presented.

I am hoping our revised federation bylaws can be voted on and approved, along with electing federation officers and approving the federation budget prior to the conference, thus eliminating the need for voting delegates as at past federation "conventions." This is the direction NARFE is going with the "conference" vs. "convention" concept.

Speaking of conferences, you can now register for the NARFE National Fedcon18 conference, Jacksonville, Fla., August 26-28. Go to: www.narfe.org. Our federation board approved a \$500 scholarship for any **elected** chapter officer who attends the conference. We hope this will encourage more members to attend. **To note: for non-elected chapter or national members living in Washington, the federation is offering a \$250 scholarship. These members must be in "good standing," that is, dues paid.**



The next federation board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, La Quinta Hotel, Tacoma. As always, all members are invited to attend. Have a great spring!

WSFC District V VP – Mary Binder

The district's 3 chapters – Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima – have been meeting monthly. However, the Yakima chapter may need to find a new meeting location due to a change the community center, where they have been meeting, may have to implement. And, the Walla Walla chapter executive board is exploring closing the chapter, primarily due to an ongoing challenge of getting members to step forward into leadership positions.

I did submit a nominee application to continue to serve as your District V vice president. It has been an honor to serve you, and with your support, I hope to continue to serve for another 2 years. Thank you. **7989**



NARFE Federal Benefits Institute

NARFE WEBINARS

PROVIDING ANSWERS FOR THE
FEDERAL COMMUNITY

March 22 – Social Security and Feds: What YOU Need to Know (by James Marshall)

April 26 – TSP: Maximizing Your Retirement Savings (by Tammy Flanagan)

Note: Previous webinars are "on demand" on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.



2018 NARFE Photo Contest
August 1, 2017 – April 15, 2018
Theme: The Glory of America
Details at "Special Programs,"
www.narfe.org



NARFE-FEEA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

Open to high school seniors only.
Application deadline is March 21!
For details go to: www.narfe.org.

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

Legislative – Mary Binder

In case you missed it, the February *narfe* magazine has a summary of NARFE's legislative accomplishments in the 115th Congress as of 2017. For more details, see pages 10-11.

The accomplishments are highlighted in 3 groups. First, NARFE “thwarted ALL attempts by Congress to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.” Next, NARFE “protected postal retirees’ health benefits through the FEHB Program. And third, NARFE “helped provide more flexible withdrawal options for TSP participants, giving them more control over their own retirement savings.”



Looking to 2018, remember the “NARFE Bill Tracker” in each *narfe* edition. This is “your monthly guide to the congressional legislation that NARFE is following.” Each issue provides updates. **3699**

An example of one such issue involves how COLAs are calculated. H.R. 1251, CPI-E Act of 2017 “requires Social Security and many federal retirement programs to use the Consumer Price Index for the elderly (CPI-E) to calculate COLAs to retirement benefits.” Again, this is just one example of legislation NARFE is “tracking.”

For those who missed the February chapter meeting, Jason Mercier, director, Center for Government Reform, Washington Policy Center, provided members another excellent update on actions in Olympia. He covered everything from the governor’s proposed carbon tax, to proposed legislation involving an income tax and capital gains tax to an update on funding education mandated by the state supreme court in its McCleary decision.



Regarding Jason’s update, one member told him that he takes “complex issues and makes them understandable” and that he “wouldn’t miss his presentation for anything.” So, with this positive feedback, Jason has agreed to provide another update at our February 2019 chapter meeting!

NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

The 4th quarter PAC reports, which provide summary information for the quarter and the first year of the 2017-2018 congressional cycle, are now on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. For example, the reports show our Chapter 1192 contributions for 2017 totaled \$1,725 (\$462 from chapter meetings and \$1,263 from sustainers).

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

This total placed the chapter 7th out of the state’s 21 chapters. With just an additional \$175, we would have been 5th. So, a little bit can make a big difference! Also to note, the chapter tied for 1st place for the number of sustainers. Both the Bremerton chapter and our Tri-Cities chapter had 6 sustainers. I’m hoping we can increase this number in 2018!



The state’s total PAC contribution for 2017 was \$17,905. Countrywide, the total was \$874,417.44.

The quarterly reports also contain the amount distributed to elected officials during 2017. For our Washington State officials: Suzan DelBene (D-01) received \$2,000; Dan Newhouse (R-04), \$2,000; Derek Kilmer (D-05), \$5,000; Pramila Jayapal (D-07), \$1,000; Dave Reichert (R-08), \$1,000 (funds disbursed before he announced his retirement); and, Denny Heck (D-10), \$2,000. The \$5,000 Congressman Kilmer received reflects his strong support of NARFE issues. He was one of only 17 officials who received \$5,000, or more. (Total an official can receive during the 2-year congressional cycle is \$10,000.)

I want to thank each of you who contributed in 2017, in January and February, and in past years. As Mary Binder wrote in her legislative article, this page, NARFE reported in the February *narfe* that it “thwarted ALL attempts by Congress to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.” The work of NARFE’s legislative staff and NARFE members, including PAC contributions, helped NARFE achieve this success on our behalf. Now, with “mid-term” elections in 2018, I will be discussing PAC at chapter meetings, including encouraging contributions and for members to consider becoming sustainers.

REMINDER! NARFE-PAC reports at: www.narfe.org



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Alzheimer's Research – Larry Williams

For the 6 months ending December 31, NARFE Region IX federations – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – reported donations totaling \$13,959 for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Washington State's share was \$5,746.58, of which \$2,720 was from our Tri-Cities chapter. Thank you to all who contributed.

END
ALZ

As of the same reporting period, NARFE had raised more than \$12.5 million for Alzheimer's research since the program began in 1986. NARFE's current goal is \$13 million by the end of this year.

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

The following NARFE membership summary information was in the January *NARFE Insider*. The 2017 closeout membership number was 208,825. Membership increased from the previous month in each of the last 3 months of 2017.

NARFE closed out the year with 6,935 fewer members than December 2016. (This compares to losses of 17,028 in 2014, 11,332 in 2015 and 9,798 in 2016.)

The number of new members in 2017 was 13,060. (This compares to 9,922 in 2015 and 10,126 in 2016.) This shows positive impact of the Federal Benefits Institute and optional chapter membership.



NARFE had 26,561 non-renewals in 2017 and reinstated 12,976 or 49 percent (up from the 46 percent reinstatement rate in 2016.)

At the end of December 38.6 percent of memberships are national members and 61.4 percent have continued their chapter membership.

Eight federations increased membership for 2017.

[One of our Region IX federations, Idaho, was one of the 8!] In addition, 6 other federations lost 20 members or less for the year. **(Editor's note: Membership Chairman Johanna has been "snowbirding." Look for chapter membership information in future newsletters.)**

Hidden Numbers: January/February newsletter numbers belonged to: Rodney Maybeck; Tamara Maruska; Jim Partridge (A winner!). Find 3 new numbers in this newsletter – **last 4 digits of your NARFE membership number**. Find it, call me, 509.375.0739, email me, caylorx2@aol.com, or let me know at a meeting, and you, too, can win \$5!

4107

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Another reminder! There is plenty of local information on our chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. You can find the menus and programs for our monthly meetings, as well as minutes of our chapter and executive board meetings, and treasurer's reports.

Caller Coordinator – Pam Griffin

"Snowbirding" season is ending! Please remember to keep the chapter updated with contact changes. Thank you! My contact information is: **Ph: 509.492.4304; Email: griff.fisher1@gmail.com.**



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Condolences to member Jim Rutledge on the passing of his wife/member, Eileen; to Oneta Denson on the passing of her brother-in-law, Richard ("Dick").

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



Worth Reading!

Ebb Tide: When a Loved One Lacks Capacity to Manage Federal Benefits. Learn about some

important benefits and ways to navigate to ensure your loved one receives the best care, legally and financially. **Click on: <https://www.narfe.org/index.cfm?fa=viewOldArticle&id=4337>.**

