



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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.narfe.org/wa/ Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Public Service Recognition Week, May 5-11. Thank you, government workers and retirees!

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

May 1 – Alexis Bonoff, community outreach manager, Washington State Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, is scheduled to provide an Alzheimer's research update.

Menu (Tentative): Monte Cristo sandwich w/fries, salad, roll, dessert, beverage

June 5 – McBones Education Director Gary Kleinknecht is scheduled to provide an update on work at the dig site!

Menu (Tentative): Fettuccini Alfredo w/garlic bread, salad, dessert, beverage



May – June, Volume 2024, Issue 3

President – Nancy Crosby

Spring is definitely here. The excitement of a new season is invigorating, and I hope you are looking forward to a having a wonderful summer. As a reminder, the chapter will meet in May and June, but then NO meetings in July and August. However, your hard-working chapter board will continue to meet and work, AND we welcome help!



Change ... it is everywhere, including again for our chapter! We recently learned the

Clover Island Inn was sold to Hilton's Spark Hotels. The new owners are renovating the entire facility and changing the format,



including eliminating meeting rooms and closing the kitchen. So, while we will still be meeting at Clover Island for May and June, the lunches will be catered AND we are once again on a search for a new meeting location. Member input is welcomed! For example, if you know of a possible local meeting location, please let me or VP Mary Binder know. Also, we are asking for input on everything from changing the meeting day and/or time, to whether we should eliminate lunches, move to a buffet lunch or an order-off-the menu option. Please, please, PLEASE send me your thoughts, ideas, suggestions! My email is: crosbynancy56@gmail.com; phone is: 509.735.3288.

While change is not always easy, I am optimistic new ideas and input will lead to even better meetings and more participation. With about 40 percent of our local chapter members attending our monthly meetings, we believe meeting in person vs. virtually is important. So, help us with your ideas and input so we can continue to keep our chapter alive and viable. Thank you.

Next, a chapter group activity, including for family and friends – a Tri-Cities Dust Devils baseball game Saturday, June 22. Cost is just \$30 and includes:

gate entrance; all-you-can-eat buffet BBQ and beverages; special seating; our Chapter name on the reader board! We are committed to a payment for 25 attendees. Sign up at the May or June chapter meetings, or call me! Join us for a fun event!



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**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.

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Continuing with our “fun” theme, we are planning for another Dust Devils outing Saturday, September 7! We are also exploring other possible chapter group activities, e.g., an actual onsite tour of the Mammoth Dig Site; a tour of the Hanford Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) facility; a summer potluck picnic; a river dinner cruise; attending an outdoor concert. Have other ideas or suggestions? Want to help in the planning? PLEASE let me know!

Member participation and support help make our chapter thrive. Thank you.

Vice President – Mary Binder

Bylaws updates! As this newsletter was finalized, the April 23 special virtual Washington State Federation (WSF) Advisory Committee meeting was approaching. All WSF members were invited.

The primary purpose for the meeting was to approve/disapprove the updated draft federation bylaws. As no comments were received from members during the comment period, it was anticipated the bylaws would pass. Next step – send them to NARFE headquarters for approval.



Once NARFE approves the WSF bylaws, Chapter President Nancy and I will move forward with updating those for our chapter, which were last updated in 2018. They are on the chapter’s website, www.narfe1192.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: If you do not have computer access and want to review the bylaws, please contact me for a printed copy.)**

Service Officer (Acting) – Nancy Crosby

NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

The NARFE Federal Benefits Institute webinars continue to be a great source for important information, **and are FREE for members**. For example, the recent “Postal Health Benefits Program: What You Need to Know” was very informative, and is archived on the NARFE website. The new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program will affect all current and retired U.S. Postal Service employees effective January 1, 2025. As a result, we are experiencing an increase in queries, from both current and retired postal workers. While there are still unknowns about the program, information is being released, e.g., from OPM, NARFE, the Postal Service. We are continuing to monitor the information for impact to our chapter members.

Also, for 6 months, starting April 1, “Eligible postal

annuitants and family members not enrolled in Medicare Part B as of January 1, 2024 will be eligible for a six-month, penalty free, Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to enroll in Medicare Part B.” While enrollment is NOT required, “those who take advantage of this SEP will not have to pay the late enrollment penalty, which increases premiums by 10 percent for each 12-month period they could have been enrolled in Part B but did not sign up.”

Looking ahead, following are upcoming NARFE webinars:

- ◆ May 2, “Key Questions You Need to Answer As You Approach Retirement: Part 2.” (“Part 1” was April 25 and will be archived on the NARFE website.)
- ◆ June 20, “Retirement Processing Prep.”
- ◆ July 25, “Thrift Savings Plan: Should I Stay or Should I Go?”

A reminder – webinars are 2 p.m., ET. Online Q&A sessions follow each one. For details and to register, visit the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

Early-bird registration is closing May 17, so there is still a



little time to take advantage of the \$175 member price for “**FEDcon24, August 18-20, St. Louis, Mo.** (Note: The \$175 price is a reduction from the previously announced \$299.) Both our WSF and chapter will be helping to offset some of the costs to attend the conference. Up-to-date information is on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org. To date, chapter member Janice Lake will be attending the conference with me. Hope others can join us! It is a great way to learn more about NARFE and meet other NARFE members from across the country!



THREE RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER

Next, another reminder that NARFE Region IX will be hosting an event at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, October 24-26. Members from the region’s 5 states – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – will be attending a “symposium” focusing on NARFE’s future. **See the Region IX Symposium ad on the inside back cover, May NARFE Magazine!**

There will be speakers from NARFE headquarters along with other information sessions. A health fair is being planned as open season will start shortly after the Symposium (November 11 thru December 9). Other events in the planning include an evening social, sit-down dinner with entertainment, and memorial service. For area and regional members, this is a great opportunity to meet other NARFE members while not having far to travel. So, please ensure you have the dates on your calendar.

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THE top priority for 2024 is recruiting members.

Think – RECRUIT JUST ONE NEW MEMBER! What a difference it could make. Often I hear, “I don’t know anyone who could be a member.” But, when I ask about family members, neighbors, friends of neighbors, it is intriguing to watch “light bulbs” go on as possibilities come to light! Questions? Let me know!



Public Relations – Mary Binder

What a great spring Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, April 16, Southridge Sports and Events Complex, Kennewick! With more than 80 vendors and 700 attendees, it was a busy event! A special “thank you” to chapter members Debbie Carlson, Janice Lake and Nancy Pochert for their help. Collectively, we talked with several “prospective” members, including some former members. All left our table with NARFE and chapter information, and we will be following up with them.



It was also a great opportunity to “network” with reps from a number of businesses, especially those providing in-home or resident care for seniors. Several were very interested in the services and information NARFE can provide, and that we are available to come to their facilities. We also had several *Senior Times/Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* newspaper staff stop by to chat and thank us for attending. (See photo, above, with Janice Lake, left, and Tiffany Lundstrom, associate publisher.) Finally, for those planning ahead, **the fall Senior Times Expo is Tuesday, October 15.**

Next on our “outreach” schedule is the Congressman Dan Newhouse-sponsored Veterans Service Fair, Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center. Watch for a recap in the next chapter newsletter!

Finally, a reminder about my 2024 goal to increase our “outreach” efforts. If you have ideas or suggestions, please let me know! Thank you.

Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder



Normally in the May/June chapter newsletter, we can provide an update on NARFE-PAC contributions through the quarter that ended March 31. However, as this newsletter was finalized, there was still an “oops” with the reports that NARFE staff was working to correct. So, while I know contributions, and disbursements to elected officials, have continued, specifics are on hold.

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

However, here is a recap of what NARFE-PAC does. It “protects NARFE members’ pay and benefits by raising and spending money to elect members of Congress who support the federal community ... NARFE-PAC is financed through NARFE members’ direct, voluntary contributions to a separate fund.” Only NARFE members and “immediate family of these individuals” can contribute. Dues money is NOT used. Questions? Please ask!

At the April Senior Times Expo, I had a chance to visit with 2 staff members for Congressman Dan Newhouse – Dallas Parr, district representative, Richland office (left in photo) and Vicki Hollerman-Perez, senior district representative, from the Yakima office (right in photo). This was not our first meeting as we have met and talked at previous Expos and other outreach events. These interactions help us/NARFE maintain visibility with Congressman Newhouse and his staff, both in the state and in D.C.



NARFE’s “May Action Alert” remains a focus on the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82. As written, this bill would repeal “the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).” While WEP and GPO do not affect all NARFE members, they do affect many. See page 8, *May NARFE Magazine*, for more details. NARFE has been working for many, MANY years to have these bills repealed. While closer than ever to success, we are still not there. Contacting elected officials is critical!

UPCOMING SPECIAL DAYS!

- Public Service Recognition Week, May 5-11;
- Mother’s Day, May 12; Father’s Day, June 16;
- Armed Forces Day, May 18; Memorial Day, May 27;
- Flag Day, June 14; Juneteenth, June 19

Return Service Requested

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



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

I am pleased to provide another positive update on the chapter’s finances. They remain solid. For those who attend our chapter meetings, a financial summary is at the bottom of the sign-in sheet. For example, at the April 3 chapter meeting, I reported the chapter had \$21,378.43 in our Gesa Credit Union account. Please let me know if you want a copy of my reports and/or need more information!



With first-class postage again expected to increase, a “thank you” to members who are receiving the chapter newsletter electronically. Mailing newsletters is our largest “postage” expense. So, for those receiving 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. Thank you.

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of April 20, our chapter had **503** members – **245**/chapter; **258**/national-only in the chapter area. These numbers are down a few from my last newsletter report, primarily due to several members forgetting to renew their membership! I am working with them to get them back as members.



If someone asked you to tell them about NARFE, what would you say? Should you need, here is an easy-to-remember reply – **“PPP&B” ... NARFE works to “protect and preserve pay and benefits” for current and retired federal employees.**

Dues withholding: Painless! Only \$4.33/month! Send NO MONEY with your application or renewal form. I can help you with the process.

Gift memberships: A great option – for a new retiree, current employee, birthday/special occasion!

Contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739;
Email: annahojx2@gmail.com.

TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS!

First, a BIG “thank you” to area members who answer their phones or return calls from our callers! It really helps them in their efforts to reach you to get needed information for our chapter meetings. This is also a way for us to stay connected with our members!



Next, my ongoing reminder to **PLEASE return the calls from our callers**; but, if you would prefer a text message or email rather than a call, or prefer not being called each month, please contact me. Thank you!

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

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the March/April newsletter.)

Member who passed: Bill Hoyt.

Thinking of you wishes: to member Carl Gallion.

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

Announcement: NARFE reaches \$16 million Alzheimer’s Research Fund goal! See page 46, May NARFE Magazine. The new goal: another \$1 million by December 2026.

Reminder! Our area’s “Walk” will be Saturday, October 19, John Dam Plaza, Richland! Our chapter team is registered. To register for the walk and/or make a donation, go to www.alz.org/walk. Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in the “Team Name” box. That will take you to a registration page.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Reminder! NEW WSF website: www.narfe.org/wa/.