



Reminder: FEHB Program Open Season, November 12 to December 10!

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 Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Membership, Johanna Caylor	509.308.6664
NARFE-PAC, Bob Stewart	509.531.3118
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Office, John Cavanaugh	509.528.0130
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, Darleen Wall	509.586.8232

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

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

Lunch not required to attend the meeting.

Lunch: \$18; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

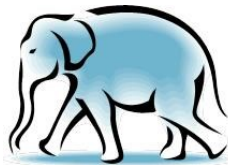
Avoid a charge! Cancel reservations you can't keep!

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

November 7 – Annual Chapter
White Elephant Fundraiser for the
NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

**Menu: margarita chicken,
roasted vegetable couscous,
green beans**

REMINDER! Bring auction items, cash/checkbook.



December 5 – Jeff Peterson with his
mellow trumpet are returning for a
holiday music program!

**Menu: roasted turkey, stuffing,
gravy, green beans with bacon**



January 2 – Danielle Kane, Eastern Washington BBB,
will provide a presentation on consumer awareness.

**Menu: (tentative) bacon-
wrapped meatloaf, mashed
potatoes, chef's choice of
seasonal veggies**



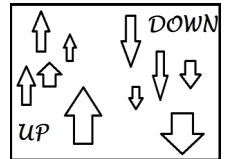
November – December, Volume 2018, Issue 6

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

Fall is definitely here and winter no longer a distant mark on the calendar. Each season brings changes, year in and year out – some easy, some maybe not so easy, but we deal with them. That is, we enjoy the "ups" and work through the "downs."



Sound familiar? Maybe the roller coaster of the stock market recently? Or, the who's in/who's out coverage of the midterm elections? Regardless, there will be changes. Then, what about the good news – a 2.8-percent COLA but then, an announcement about a potential postal rate increase? More ups and downs, and changes.



On the NARFE front, changes, too. The recently elected new president, Ken Thomas, begins his 2-year term November 1. Even this year's election process was yet another change for NARFE with the new "one member, one vote." While it may sound simple, the implementation and low percentage of NARFE members actually voting proved otherwise. An example – only 7.22% of NARFE members voted in the runoff election for president. In our state, the percentage was even lower, 7.15%; but, for Chapter 1192, the percentage was better at 11.44%.



As if all this were not enough, OPM is also working through changes. Director Jeff Pon, who spoke at the NARFE's **FEDcon18** conference, resigned recently after only 6 months as director. Then, in a recent announcement, "just days before the Civil Service Reform Act" turned 40, OPM's acting director, Margaret Weichert, announced several hiring and compensation changes that are "a host and a portfolio" of other changes to come.

Yes, a sample of changes, but we will "weather" them. So, as we move forward, watch for slippery sidewalks and roads! And, a very Happy Holiday Season to you.



2nd VP/Service Officer – John Cavanaugh

Reminders! The service office is open only by appointment rather than each Tuesday. Federal retirees, employees and others, for example, surviving family members, can call the service office phone number, 509.373.9536, and leave a message. The call will be returned. Appointments can also be made by calling Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288, or Mary Binder, 509.585.1393.



“I don’t know what I’d do if something happened to ... FILL IN THE BLANK! We hear this frequently from spouses. Then, when something does happen, that changes to, “I don’t know what to do or who to contact.” YES, sharing information with your spouse, and/or a family member, is IMPORTANT! This includes everything from passwords for phones and computers to banking information and OPM. See the box below for OPM contact information. **2859**

U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Retirement Services

Toll Free: 1.888.767.6783

Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET)

Website: www.opm.gov

Email: retire@opm.gov

Retirement Services Online:

www.servicesonline.opm.gov

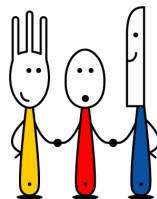
Treasurer – Liz Bowers

The chapter’s 2019 budget remains a work in progress; but, with no significant changes anticipated, I expect that it will be similar to this year’s. If you have input or questions, please contact me.



Director-at-Large – Nancy Crosby

A quick “hospitality” update. An early November meeting is scheduled with our Red Lion hotel representative to discuss our 2019 contract and menu. We’ll provide updates at chapter meetings and in the newsletter. Also, the menu will again be posted on the chapter’s website: www.narfe1192.org.



WSF President – Nancy Crosby

Our Washington State Federation (WSF) board had a meeting at the Tacoma La Quinta Hotel, September 10. Minutes are posted on the federation website: www.narfewa.net. Highlights included the resignation of the vice president, Karol Kusunose, and the selection and installation of Mary Binder to complete the term. Also, District IV’s vice president, Al Costa, had to resign due to moving to Oregon. Bea Bull from Bremerton Chapter

181, agreed to fill the position and was unanimously approved by the board via email subsequent to the board meeting.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for December 6, again in Tacoma. A primary focus will be finalizing the federation’s 2019 budget. Earlier in the year, the board voted to suspend each chapter’s “per capita tax” for 2019, which is \$1.20 per member. The board is encouraging chapters to use the funds for recruiting and retaining members, and/or assisting members who attend NARFE conferences or training with expenses. The 2019 federation budget will also identify funds for “scholarships” to help offset members’ expenses for NARFE Legislative Training Conference, **LEGcon19**, March 10-13, Washington, D.C., and the Region IX Training Conference, May 17-18. District VPs and chapters will be provided a copy of the finalized budget.



Recruiting and retaining NARFE members continues to be challenging. For example, NARFE gained 13,792 new members and/or reinstatements through August but also lost 19,818 due to non-renewals and deaths for a negative loss of 6,026. So, a reminder that NARFE’s fall membership drive runs through December 31. See below!

NARFE Members!

RECRUIT for CASH

During the Fall Membership Drive
SEPTEMBER 1-DECEMBER 31

Earn \$10 for every new member you recruit – [CLICK HERE](#)

Finally, our Emerald Chapter 1701 is officially closed and we are awaiting word from NARFE on the official closure of our Walla Walla Chapter 237. Nationally, NARFE has closed 201 chapters since 2016, including more than 65 thus far in 2018. So, thank you to all who are working to keep our Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 open and viable! **5538**

WSF District V VP – Mary Binder

With the closure of the Walla Walla chapter, District V has only 2 chapters – Tri-Cities and Yakima. The Yakima chapter is still searching for a new meeting location. Effective in January, there will be a significant per-hour charge if the chapter continues meeting at a local community center. Ideas? Suggestions? Let me know! Thanks.

NARFE WEBINARS

November 8 – Health Plans: What’s New and How to Choose (*Tammy Flanagan; sponsored by GEHA*), 2 p.m., ET

December 13 – Estate Planning: What Feds Need to Know (*by Mark Keen, CFP*), 2 p.m., ET

(Past webinars “on demand” at: www.narfe.org)

Legislative – Mary Binder

As this newsletter “goes to press,” the midterm elections are looming. With much at stake for many, it will be interesting to see if the voter turnout exceeds the average for midterm elections. Have you voted?



A reminder – the October *narfe* magazine, pages 29-40, has a “special pullout section,” that NARFE provides so “members may be as informed as possible about the representatives and senators seeking re-election to Congress, and how these legislators have represented the concerns of active and retired federal employees.”

Recently, Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-04) and Derek Kilmer (D-06) visited each other’s districts as part of a “civility and respect” tour, as their graphic, right, depicts. Both are members of the Congressional Civility and Respect Caucus. Representative Kilmer wrote in his recent newsletter, “The group formed as a response to some of the incivility our country has experienced in recent years.” Further, he wrote, that he joined the group “because, despite what’s on cable news every night, I believe it is possible to disagree without being disagreeable.”



After the tour, Congressman Newhouse wrote in his newsletter that while he and Congressman Kilmer “disagree on many policy issues, we have fostered and maintained a friendship and positive working relationship. We are both members of the House Appropriations Committee and participate in a monthly meeting of a Bipartisan Working Group. We have introduced legislation together, such as the VA Management Alignment Act, and we have worked together on several important issues, such as combating the opioid crises and putting an end to school violence. 2061

NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

The 2017-2018 congressional cycle is coming to an end, December 31. The 8th and final quarter started October 1. Per Ross Apter, NARFE political associate, the 7th quarter ending September 30 “was a busy one,” which was expected considering the midterm elections.

At the end of the 7th quarter, NARFE members had contributed \$1,825,831.51 to NARFE-PAC since January 1, 2017. This exceeds NARFE’s goal of \$1,500,000 for this cycle! Of that, \$52,325.70 came from our Washington federation members, including \$3,767 from Tri-Cities chapter members. This placed the chapter 7th in the state. However, with 8

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

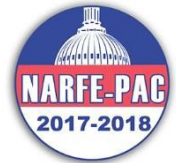
Phone: 202.224.3411; Fax: 202.228.0514

<http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/index.dfm>

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

Phone: 509.946.8106; Fax: 509.946.6937

sustainers, the chapter ranks first! Thank you to all our contributors!



During the 7th quarter, there were more disbursements to incumbents running for re-election, and to one candidate.

Following is a summary for the 7 quarters: Suzan DelBene (D-01), \$3,000; Rick Larsen (D-02), \$1,000; Dan Newhouse (R-04), \$5,000; Derek Kilmer (D-06), \$9,000; Pramila (D-07), \$1,000; Dave Reichert (R-08), \$1,000 (Note: Funds were disbursed before Congressman Reichert announced his retirement.); Candidate Kim Schrier (D-08) \$2,500; and, Denny Heck (D-10), \$10,000. Total disbursements for Washington, \$32,500.

Alzheimer’s Research – Larry Williams

We did it! While small, our Tri-Cities chapter had a team for the Kennewick Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Sunday, October 14. Joining me were Lorie and Leon Bennett, and Mary Binder. It was a perfect day for a walk. We even had a “photo op” with Congressman Dan Newhouse and a few minutes to talk with him about NARFE’s support to Alzheimer’s research.



November is NARFE Alzheimer’s month. Our chapter again will have its annual white elephant fundraiser and use the same format from the last couple of years. Tickets will be sold and members can place them in bags for the items they want. At the close of the tickets sales, a winning ticket will be drawn from each bag for that item. **Reminders! Bring donation items, cash and/or checkbook to the November chapter meeting!**





Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

Reminder! Meeting minutes, monthly menus and programs, and chapter newsletters ... all on the chapter website. Check it out!
www.narfe1192.org

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Dale Schwartz

Reinstated: Mary Louise Anderson; Cesar Collantes
Reminders!

- ♦ 2018 NARFE Fall Membership Drive, September 1 thru December 31! Recruiters receive \$10 for each new recruit, are eligible for monthly prizes, and for the grand prize – a Bose SoundLink Revolve + Bluetooth 360 speaker. Rules at: www.narfe.org/recruit.
- ♦ **Snowbirds ... and all members!** Let me know if your contact information changes!
- ♦ Have questions about the latest revised membership renewal form? Let me know! Remember to check the box for the number of years you are renewing for and the **“National AND Chapter”** box to remain a Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 member.
- ♦ **Dues Withholding!** Retirees, save money! No renewal forms to worry about! Pay only \$44 vs. \$50 for annual national/chapter dues. This is \$3.67 in 12 equal payments deducted from your annuity. Questions? Please contact me.

Hidden Numbers: September/October numbers:

Dennis Brown; Ronald Izatt; Terese Pratt. Sorry no winners! Find 3 new numbers – **last 4 digits of your NARFE membership number.**

Find it, call me, 509.308.6664, email me, caylorx2@aol.com, or let me know at a meeting, and you, too, can win \$5!



123456
7890



2019 NARFE Photo Contest August 1, 2018 – April 8, 2019

Theme: Living in the USA
Details at “Special Programs,”
www.narfe.org

Caller Coordinator – Darleen Wall

Can we make 35? That is a new goal for members/guests at a chapter meeting! Why 35? Because at our October meeting we had 34! While a number of factors contribute to members attending a meeting, I believe an important factor is our enthusiastic callers. So, thank you, callers!

35

Looking back to September – our callers left many messages while making their annual calls to local members. For those who received a message AND have contact information that needs updating, please call me at 509.586.8232.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Since the September/October newsletter:

Condolences to the family of member Phil Lamont; to the family of former member Pete Rasmussen

Get well wishes to Mary Ellen Amundsen; Johanna Caylor; Jim Caylor; Cesar Collantes; Dolores Rizzo; Faye Vlieger; Al Walker

Know someone needing a little “sunshine” or a special-occasion card? Have extra cards, especially sympathy? Call me or email me: einvlieger@aol.com.



Federal Benefits Open Season NOTE!

If you are satisfied with your current health plan, you do not need to do anything during Open Season!

To request changes:

Online at: <https://retireefehb.opm.gov>

Call: 800.332.9798

Write:

FEHBP Open Season Processing Center
PO Box 5000, Lawrence KS 66046-0500



Happy Holidays!
Be safe. Don't drink and drive.

