

Important! Chapter officer nominations and elections at the November chapter meeting.

2021 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Pat Turner	509.539.5659
Vice President, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
Secretary, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
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, John Wetterling	509.545.8016
Newsletter, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Public Relations, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Service Officer, Ellen LeVee	509.438.4284
Sunshine, Faye Vlieger	509.961.1095
Webmaster, Larry Williams	509.783.8554

CHAPTER MEETINGS/EVENTS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August
Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Chapter Planning for In-Person Meetings!

Current plans are for in-person vs. virtual chapter meetings in November and December, Red Lion Hotel, Kennewick, 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd. If that changes, members will receive updates in email notices for those with email addresses on file, from the chapter's callers and on the chapter's website, www.narfe1192.org.

November 3 – Annual Chapter White Elephant Fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund!

REMINDER! Bring auction items (no weapons), cash and/or checkbook.

Menu: roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, green beans, dessert



November 7, Daylight Saving Time ends. Fall back!

December 1 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return to provide a holiday music program of soft jazz with muted trumpet and voice!

Menu: meatloaf with bacon, mashed potatoes, veggies, dessert



November – December, Volume 2021, Issue 6

Chapter President – Pat Turner

Season's Greetings! It is hard to believe it is that time again, but it is upon us. So, if you were procrastinating on your fall and winter preparation tasks, it is definitely time to complete them.



In September and October, we had successful in-person chapter meetings! It felt so good to be able to again see and talk with members. We are now looking forward to our November and December meetings and programs!

Election time is here. For state elections, I hope everyone votes prior to the November 2 deadline. While not everyone will be happy with the results, we will still be able to work together and remain focused on what NARFE is trying to do for all of us.

Continuing with elections, at our October chapter meeting, a slate of candidates was announced for 2022-2024. (See box below.) Additional nominations will be solicited and elections held at the November meeting. Installation of officers will be at the December meeting.

**2022-2024 Slate of Candidates
for
Chapter Elected Officer Positions**

President – Pat Turner
Vice President – Nancy Crosby
Secretary – Mary Binder
Treasurer – Liz Bowers

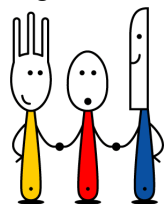
Our chapter board continues to want your ideas and suggestions for how to continue to keep our chapter viable and members connected. You are the success of our chapter. Please feel free to contact me, or any board member. Thank you.

Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year's celebrations may be different for many of us again this year. Remember to mask up, when needed. However you celebrate, I hope you can enjoy the season to the fullest.



Vice President – Nancy Crosby

President Pat has asked me to serve as the point of contact with the Red Lion hotel to help streamline our interactions with the catering office and provide less confusion for the hotel staff. For more than 30 years, the hotel has been very generous in meeting our needs. Soon I will be working with the hotel on our 2022 contract, including the menu for our lunches. We will try to keep the costs and guarantees close to this year's. Since we order served lunches, we do not pay for the room, setup, microphone/speakers, **but we do have to guarantee/pay for 15 lunches**, which include a salad, entrée and dessert. Also, please ensure you let your caller know if you need a special meal as it is important to have this information prior to chapter meetings.



I know you'll read this elsewhere in the newsletter, but I want to provide a couple of reminders. First, our annual fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund is at our November chapter meeting. Donations have been down, including from our chapter, due to the lack of in-person meetings and fundraisers. So, please be as generous as you can with items – a great way to clean out some treasures – and/or a donation.



Next, as President Pat wrote, chapter officer elections will be at the November meeting. Consider serving as an officer, or in a chair or co-chair position. Our chapter's success depends on member participation.

Finally, Service Officer Ellen LeVee will be providing members FEHB program open season information. With premiums increasing and plan changes, it is important to review and compare options. If you have questions or need information, please contact Ellen, or me at ncrosby2b@charter.net. You can also call/leave a message at 509.735.3288, and I will return your call.

**FEHB Program Open Season
November 8 through December 13**

Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

The annual Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Open Season is upon us. This is the time when federal employees and retirees can enroll, change, suspend or cancel federal benefits coverage for the coming year. OPM announced that the average premium increase is 3.8 percent, primarily due to prescription drug increases. (NARFE President Ken Thomas and the advocacy staff are continuing to urge Congress to work to lower these costs.) Also, OPM will again have the comparison tool available to help you compare plans.

Further, NARFE has webinars scheduled that may help you. (See list below.) There were 2 in October, "Understanding Medicare Advantage Options" and "Federal Dental and Vision Insurance: FEDVIP Explained," that are archived on the NARFE website under the Federal Benefits Institute tab, along with all other NARFE webinars. These are free for members. I have viewed several and have found them very helpful. Also, you can contact a NARFE federal benefits specialist by email, fedbenefits@narfe.org, or phone, 800.456.8410, option 2. Upcoming webinars are:

Thursday, November 4, 2 p.m., ET, "Which FEHB Plan is Right for You?" Presenter Tammy Flanagan "will discuss some simple steps feds and retirees can take during open season to determine whether their current plan is the best one."

Thursday, November 18, 2 p.m., ET, "So Many Choices: Which FEHB Plans Work Best with Medicare A & B?" "During the webinar, Tammy Flanagan will take an in-depth look at how FEHB plans coordinate with Medicare and review your best coverage options."

Just announced – one area in-person health fair, Tuesday, November 30, 8:30 to 10:00 AM, U.S. District Court, 825 Jadwin Ave., Richland! This is the Federal Building so bring photo ID for access. Providers are also offering online opportunities to get information, and the October NARFE Magazine has an "Open Season Report," beginning on page 44, with more information to come in the November and December issues. Watch for electronic and/or other announcements, too, and feel free to contact me at ejleee22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message and I will return your call. Thank you.)

WSF President – Steve Roy

The federation's annual meeting was virtual, September 29. Guest speakers, Jessica Klement, NARFE staff VP, policy and programs, and Dave Bowman, NARFE senior membership director, provided excellent information and updates. I highlighted 2021 WSF activities and looked ahead to 2022. Much of the information is in the 2021 *The Federation Reporter*, which is on the WSF website, www.narfewa.org, as are the meeting minutes, and Jessica's and Dave's presentations. The next WSF board meeting will be virtual, Thursday, December 2, starting at noon. All members are welcome!

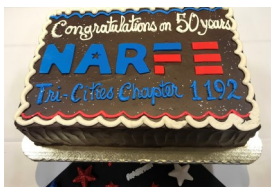


Finally, I am pleased to report that Rich Wilson, past WSF president and Region IX VP, who passed away September 7, will be honored on the NARFE Wall of Fame. Thank you to all who provided monetary donations to make this happen. See *The Federation Reporter* for a tribute to Rich.

Public Relations/Legislative – Mary Binder

It has been and still is a busy time of year! Looking back, we celebrated the chapter's 50th anniversary at the September *in-person* chapter meeting. Both the *Senior Times* and *Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business* had an informative article on the chapter and NARFE. The link to the article was sent to NARFE and then "retweeted" to NARFE's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages! The link is also on the WSF website,

www.narfewa.org. A highlight for many – a delicious and beautiful cake from Desserts by Kelly, Richland, with enough left for the October meeting!



Also in September, the annual fall NARFE membership drive got underway, and continues through December 31. "Current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit, as well as be eligible to win other prizes."



Then, too, NARFE's annual photo contest has started. The theme is "America in Focus." Entries are due by February 28. Watch for details in the *NARFE Magazine* and on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org.



The annual Combined Federal Campaign started September 1 and runs through January 15. For online donations, go to: www.cfcgiving.opm.gov.



For those who tried to pick up a goody bag at the October 19 *Senior Times* Expo, Southridge Sports Complex, the good news for the event planners is the drive-thru event was so popular they ran out of bags early! The bad news for those trying to attend, the event planners ran out of bags early! So, mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 19, for the spring event, which hopefully will be in person.

For members who have a family member graduating high school who will be attending college next fall, the application and instructions for the 2022 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program should be available in November at: www.feea.org/scholarships.



NARFE has a new "online community," FEDHub, that "connects NARFE members who are, or were, part of the federal workforce." See page 56, October *NARFE Magazine*, for more details!

Legislative – Mary Binder

Chapter Treasurer Liz Bowers and I joined more than 1,000 other attendees for the Washington Policy

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

Center's Eastern Washington annual dinner October 15, in Spokane. Guest speaker was Dr. Ben Carson, HUD director during the Trump Administration. Congressman Dan Newhouse and his wife, Joan, were among the attendees. We had an opportunity to personally thank him for his recent co-sponsorship of H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal GPO and WEP – top NARFE legislative priorities for many years.



Thank you to all who sent letters or made calls asking Congressman Newhouse for his support. Our personal stories regarding the impact GPO and WEP have on more than 2.3 million retirees resonated with him. Please continue those contacts as we work toward repeal.

As scheduled, the 2022 COLA was announced in mid October. While 5.9 percent/CSRS and 4.9 percent/FERS increases are the largest in a very long time, much will be offset with healthcare premium and other price increases. For more information on the COLA, go to: www.ssa.gov.

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

NARFE recently posted the third quarter PAC reports on its website. I will provide an update at the November chapter meeting, but briefly: our chapter is first in the state for the number of sustainers; more than \$500 was donated by chapter members during the quarter; and, our Region IX remains in first place for the "mean" contribution. Thank you to all contributors!



The 2022 national elections are now just a year away. NARFE is already actively working to bolster fed-friendly candidates who are seeking election or re-election. So, donations are definitely needed – at chapter meetings, by mail, or as a sustainer! NARFE's top legislative priorities and updates are in each monthly *NARFE Magazine*.

Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

TO:

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

At the October chapter meeting, I reported the chapter had a combined bank balance of about \$17,300.

So, overall, funds remain steady. I am drafting the 2022 budget and will review it with the chapter board at its November 15 virtual meeting.

Budget

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of mid-October, the NARFE database showed we had 212 chapter members and 138 area national-only members, for a total of 350. The number of national-only members dropped by 5 since my last report. So, a reminder about renewing your membership! (Welcome back Mary Cruse and Catherine Brekke!) And, for those wanting to become or remain a chapter member, please check that block when renewing. I recently talked with a member who forgot to do so and was converted to a national-only member. We're fixing that!

With winter quickly approaching, to all our **snowbirds**, please let us know of USPS or email changes. Call/email me, 509.375.0739, annahojx2@gmail.com.



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the September/October newsletter)

Condolences to chapter members:

Cathy Beecher on the passing of her husband David; the family of member Patricia Dobeas; Joe Escamillo on the passing of his wife Ginette; Carl Gallion on the passing of his significant other, Nancy Carr; Christine Wilson on the passing of her husband Rich (see page 2)

Thinking of You/Get Well to:

Suzanne Smith, daughter of 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.



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

A friendly reminder! Please help us keep our records up to date. If you move, change your phone number, no longer want to be notified for monthly meetings, etc., please let me know. Thank you!

Darleen Wall, caller coordinator
(H) 623.556.0869; (M) 509.308.2765;
Email: jdwall2@centurylink.net



Alzheimer's Research Fund – Larry Williams

Our NARFE chapter Walk to End Alzheimer's team had 6 members this year, 5 of whom walked during the October 10 annual event at Columbia Park, Kennewick. We raised \$520, which will be used locally BUT counts toward the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund goal. It was a sunny and beautiful day for a walk! (Pictured left to right, Claudia and John Wetterling, me, Chuck Clayton, Mary Binder)



The chapter's annual white elephant fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund will be at our November meeting. Please bring items for the fundraiser, but no weapons, cash/checkbook. This can be a great way to get a start on your holiday shopping, regift treasures you may have and are not using ... a win-win as proceeds support the Research Fund.



Webmaster – Larry Williams

Lost your newsletter? Want to know what the lunch or program will be at a chapter meeting? Check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. For what is going on around the state, check out the WSF website, www.narfewa.org. Have suggestions for the sites? Feel free to contact me.

