

Reminder! Daylight Saving Time Ends November 6, 2:00 AM. "Fall Back" Your Clocks!

2022 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/PROGRAMS

Meetings: 1st Wednesdays, except July/August

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

Lunch: \$20; reservations REQUIRED

(Vegetarian plates available, if ordered ahead)

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

Note: Executive Board meeting days/times vary.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Programs

November 2 – Annual chapter "white elephant"

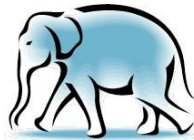
fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer's

Research Fund! **REMINDER! Bring**

auction items (no weapons), cash

and/or checkbook.
Menu: roast turkey, stuffing, gravy,

green beans with bacon, salad, dessert



December 7 – Jeff Peterson and his mellow trumpet return with a holiday music program of soft jazz and voice

Menu: homestyle meatloaf,
mashed potatoes, chef's choice
of veggies, salad and dessert



January 4 – Michael Novakovich, Columbia Industries' new CEO, is

scheduled to provide an over-view of CI and its programs.

Menu: pasta marinara, garlic
bread, veggies, dessert



November – December, Volume 2022, Issue 6

Chapter President – Pat Turner

It is a wonderful time of year!

Holiday celebrations with family and friends bring special memories.

For me, I am thinking a first doll, a first bicycle, and anticipating

Christmas Day at Grandma's house with all the cousins there to play with and the goodies to enjoy.



In preparing this article, I revisited the goals I established for 2022 as your Chapter 1192 president:

- ♦ First – grow and maintain attendance at our chapter meetings. Success! We have obtained new members through our outreach efforts, and attendance has increased due to the excellent programs and our callers each month encouraging local members to attend. Also, the board continues to want your input for improving chapter meetings and programs!
- ♦ Second – acknowledge our distinguished members, that is, members with at least 20 years NARFE membership. Goal met and continues to be met thanks to Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor.
- ♦ Third – maintain a strong chapter board with board members attending board meetings and participating in approving actions. Also, we are strong financially, thanks to Treasurer Liz Bowers. So, third goal met.
- ♦ Fourth – present programs that meet current-day interests. Goal met. Ideas and suggestions welcome!

For 2023, it is important for all of us as NARFE members to stay strong and continue working with our congressional delegation to advocate for our federal benefits. As our newly elected NARFE president, Bill Shackelford, said – we are NARFE's voice. We need to be heard.

I hope all of us continue reaching out to other members. Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger has done an excellent job recognizing members who "need a little sunshine" by sending a card. If you know someone who is needing "sunshine," contact Faye, me or a board member.

As we close 2022, be safe, stay healthy. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Year.



Vice President – Nancy Crosby

Apathy! If you look up the meaning, it reflects indifference, boredom, lack of concern, lack of interest. Recently, the NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) conducted a **3-day, free, virtual**, annual meeting and biennial conference. I understand virtual does not replace in-person, but the WSF board did a lot of planning to bring speakers and presentations of interest for all members. I was amazed, and disheartened, at the lack of interest WSF members demonstrated. In our Tri-Cities chapter alone, we have 218 members; yet, only 2 or 3 of us “attended” the sessions, even though members could select what they could/wanted to attend, that is, log in and out of the conference based on their interests and schedules. Each day’s attendance averaged about 18 members, of which 4 were WSF officers, out of 4,200 WSF members!

This number is in line with the recent WSF officer elections. Only 101 members voted! Granted, there was only one person running for each office; but, the new WSF president, Cray Henry, is a national-only member who heeded the call for nominees when he understood no one was running for federation president.



This same **apathy** was also demonstrated in the recent NARFE national officer elections. In 2022, out of all ballots distributed, only 6.67% were returned. In the 2020 election, only 7.4% were returned. Ballots were in the *NARFE Magazine* and available online.

These results make me wonder – what are we, your chapter officers, doing wrong? For example, are we not publicizing events and elections in a way to ensure every chapter member gets the information in a timely manner? We no longer can blame COVID on the apathy. What can we do to improve, to encourage more participation?

Please! Take the time to let us – your chapter officers and committee coordinators – know what we can do to change this apathy and improve! We want to keep our federation and NARFE viable. Please let us know how we can better serve you!



Service Officer – Ellen LeVee

This year’s Federal Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season is Monday, November 14 through Monday, December 12. Starting on page 60, October *NARFE Magazine*, there is important information about open season, including several frequently asked Qs/As. Bottom line, there are

many resources available to help both current federal employees and retirees with everything from reviewing their current FEHB plans to comparing them with other plans, including for dental and/or vision. For example, by going to NARFE’s website, www.narfe.org, and clicking on the “More Info” link near the top of the page in the blue banner at the end of “Visit NARFE’s Open Season Resources page to explore your health, dental and vision plan options,” members are welcomed to “NARFE’s one-stop shop” for their Open Season needs, including quick links to plan brochures, a flexible spending calculator and much more. NARFE will also have additional information in the November and December *NARFE* magazines..



NARFE FEDERAL BENEFITS INSTITUTE

NARFE’s webinars are another source for Open Season information! The fall 2022 series is listed on page 13, October *NARFE Magazine*. If you miss a webinar, it is or will be archived on the NARFE website, including the online Q&A sessions that follow each webinar.

Reminder! For members with Medicare Part B, and an FEHB plan providing Part B reimbursement, don’t forget to request the 2022 reimbursement through the carrier!

If you have any questions, please contact me at ejleves22@charter.net, or call me at 509.438.4284. (Leave a message; I will return your call!)

WSF District I Vice President – Mary Binder

“Busy” describes our Washington State Federation (WSF) this fall! Chapter VP Nancy referenced the 3-day October virtual WSF conference in her article, this page. The agenda included NARFE national, regional and state updates. Washington State Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck talked with attendees and Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs discussed election security. There was a very informative presentation on scams from 2 AARP instructors, and a thought-provoking memorial reflection from Sister Pat Millen from Spokane.

WSF election results were announced at the conference. Cray Henry is the new WSF president and Mary Traxler, the new VP. Both Secretary Linda Wallers and Treasurer Arlene Patton were re-elected, as were Bea Bull, District III VP and me for District I. Verna Wright was elected to the vacant District II VP position.

As for the 6 Eastern Washington District I chapters: Spokane Chapter 32, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 and Colville Valley Chapter 1247 are meeting; Columbia Basin Chapter 856 is now officially closed; Wenatchee Chapter 239 is in the process of closing; and Yakima Chapter 238 is planning a special member meeting to discuss that chapter’s future. Despite the closings, the good news is – almost all those members are continuing their NARFE membership as national-only members or in another chapter! Having them as members is important!

Public Relations – Mary Binder

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, it has been a busy fall, including for “PR” as we continue to “outreach” to the community about NARFE and our Tri-Cities chapter. We’ve continued having a presence at the monthly Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce (TCRCC) lunch meetings. I attended the TCRCC-sponsored elected leaders reception, September 29, The Reach Museum (*photo, right*). As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, we participated in the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, October 9; and, October 18, we had a NARFE table at the fall Senior Times Expo, Numerica Pavilion, Southridge Sports and Events Complex. About 80 vendors and more than 700 seniors attended the event. We met prospective NARFE members, got reacquainted with several members, and had great interface with a number of vendors. In fact while setting up our booth (*photo, right*), a vendor approached our table, took information and said, “I need you folks and your information as I have clients with questions [about Medicare] that I cannot answer!” We are looking forward to seeing at least some of our prospective members at future chapter meetings, and are looking forward to the spring Senior Times Expo, Tuesday, April 18.



Other upcoming events and reminders:

- ♦ The new *Tri-Cities Senior Yellow Pages, 2022-2023*, is available at area senior centers, senior care and retirement facilities, and all 3 Sterling restaurants. It is free, and the chapter has an ad on page 14!
- ♦ The annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) started September 1 and runs through January 14. For donation details, go to: givecfc.org.
- ♦ NARFE’s annual photo contest is underway! Winning photos will be in the 2024 NARFE calendar. See page 68, October NARFE Magazine, for details, or go to www.narfe.org/photocontest.
- ♦ Coming in November – applications for the 2023/2024 NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program. (Reminder: The program is for high school seniors related to NARFE members and who plan to attend college in 2023.) Go to www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships.



Legislative – Mary Binder

With the mid-term elections just around the corner as this newsletter is put together, it is hard to know what to write! So, I am opting for some reminders:

- ♦ Look for special coverage of NARFE’s **FEDcon22** conference in the November NARFE Magazine.

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

- ♦ Repealing GPO/WEP – NARFE “continues to advocate for passage of the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82.” NARFE continues to “push to ensure House leadership brings the bill to the floor for a vote.”
- ♦ Regardless of the November 8 election results, it will remain important to stay engaged with our elected officials. Note! Pages 47-58, October NARFE Magazine, have summary information regarding how our elected officials voted in the 117th Congress.
- ♦ NARFE’s 2023-2024 advocacy positions document is now on the NARFE website. According to the site, “These positions provide an extensive and specific enumeration of NARFE’s member-endorsed positions on legislative and administrative policies and will serve as a guide for NARFE’s advocacy endeavors in 2023 and 2024.” For the document and more information, after logging into the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, click on the Advocacy tab, then Advocacy Update on the dropdown tab. Go to page 2, and look for “NARFE Announces Its Advocacy Positions for 2023-2024.” The document is also expected to be in a future NARFE Magazine.
- ♦ The state’s 2023 legislative session begins January 9.

NARFE-PAC – John Wetterling

The 7th quarter, 2021/2022 congressional cycle, ended September 30. As this newsletter was finalized, the NARFE-PAC reports had not been posted to the NARFE website. If they are available in time for the November 2 chapter meeting, I will provide a recap.

Meanwhile, remember to vote in the November 8 local, state and national elections. NARFE-PAC contributions continue to be needed and welcomed as we transition from the “mid-term” elections to the presidential election in 2 years. And, a reminder: **NARFE is “political” but nonpartisan.”**



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

A Must-Have, Free NARFE White Paper!

*Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for
Survivors of Federal Annuitants*

Copies at chapter meetings, on the NARFE
website, or contact Service Officer Ellen LeVee.

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

In January, the chapter's bank account had \$17,500. At the end of the third quarter, September 30, the account had \$14,800, which is within the board-approved 2022 budget. While some costs have increased, e.g., printing, we have been able to offset these with other savings. The 2023 budget is being developed. At this point, I believe it will be similar to this year's budget.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

NARFE's fall membership drive continues through December 31! "Current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit." See page 66, October NARFE Magazine, for details!

WE ARE RECRUITING!

As of October 24, we had 218 chapter members, 144 national-only members, for a total of 362 members, an increase from 355 reported in the last newsletter. Welcome to Fon Adams who transferred from Columbia Basin Chapter 856, which is now closed.

Snowbirds! Please ensure we have updated contact information while you are away, if applicable.

Have questions? Please call/email me, 509.375.0739, annahojx2@gmail.com.

Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the September/October newsletter)

Condolences to: member Bill Darke on the passing of his wife, Marilyn; Sam Kranz, on the passing of his wife/chapter member, Dana; member Janice Lake on the passing of her sister, Lenora O'Neil; Larry Williams on the passing of his former spouse, Judy

Thinking of you/get well/sunshine wishes to members: Norma Van Patten; and, thank you for the card sent to me during my recent illness



TO:

CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Our callers REALLY make TREMENDOUS EFFORTS to contact all local members who have asked to be notified about meetings. When they leave messages, PLEASE return their calls so we know you received the message. If you want us to use an alternate method for contacting you, PLEASE let me know. Thank you, including for any feedback you provide!

Darleen Wall, (H) 623.556.0869;

Email: jdwall2@centurylink.net.



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

Success! The chapter's "Walk" team had 8 walkers and 2 additional volunteers to staff our NARFE table at the October 9, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Columbia Park, Kennewick. The team raised \$520, which stays local BUT counts toward NARFE's overall Alzheimer's Research Fund goal. Thank you to the to all who participated!



(The chapter team, standing, left to right: Larry Williams; Claudia Wetterling; John Wetterling; Pat Turner; Chuck Clayton; Mary Binder. Seated, Lorie Bennett, left; Johanna Caylor, right. Insert pic, Randy and Fia Grekowicz.)

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Check the chapter, www.narfe1192.org, and federation, www.narfewa.org, websites for a wealth of information!