



Reminder: NARFE Runoff Election! Voting Closes 11:59 PM, ET, September 30.

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	509.375.0739
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.

September 5 – FEDcon18 recap.

Plus, information/tidbits about wine and the state's wine industry. Come with questions!

**Menu: grilled chicken w/teriyaki
sauce served over rice**



October 3 – Lt. Tracy Baker, Benton Fire District I, will provide information on preventing slips, trips and falls.

**Menu: bacon-wrapped meatloaf w/
mashed potatoes and veggies**



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.**



September – October, Volume 2018, Issue 5

Chapter President – Lorie Bennett

I hope you have all been staying cool these past weeks. Yes, the summer has given us some brutal heat, along with fires and challenging air quality. My overall message is, "BE SAFE; STAY COOL!"

By the time you receive this newsletter, several chapter board members will be attending or returning from the NARFE **FEDcon18** conference. With all that has happened and changed over the past 2 years, we will have much to highlight at our September chapter meeting. Additional information will be on the NARFE website and in the *narfe* magazine.

Please continue to check the *narfe* magazine for updates on legislation NARFE is monitoring that could impact federal employees and retirees pay and benefits. It is so important to stay engaged with possible changes.

Finally, over the summer, the Walla Walla chapter board has continued to work toward closing its chapter. Several members have

Welcome

chosen to join our Tri-Cities chapter. So, I am confident we will see new faces as we start our new meeting year. Welcome, Walla Walla members, and welcome back Tri-Cities chapter members!

2nd VP/Service Officer – John Cavanaugh

A reminder! The service office is now 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, leave a message, and a point of contact will return the call. **1619**

New School Year!

***Help keep our children safe.
Be patient. Drive safely.***



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

As your chapter “budget monitor,” a couple of updates. Recently, we were able to close the chapter’s InFirst bank account, and have the remaining funds moved into the chapter’s GESA account. With a little tweaking here and there, our 2018 chapter budget remains on track. Looking ahead, I’ll be working with board members on the chapter’s 2019 budget.



Director-at-Large – Nancy Crosby

A special thank you to Darleen Wall for working with the chapter callers the past couple of months to update their lists. We thanked the callers for all their arduous work by hosting their lunch at the August 14 chapter board meeting.



Darleen is the new chapter caller coordinator, replacing Pam Griffin who served in the position for many years. Thank you, Pam!



Looking ahead, since a number of Walla Walla chapter members are being added to our roster, we want to ensure they are invited to our chapter meetings. So, we could use more callers as some have rather large lists to contact. Let Darleen know if you can help. (See her contact information, page 4.)

And, a SCAM ALERT! With new Medicare cards being issued, there are many scammers contacting recipients and asking for personal information or the need to send money to receive the new card. BEWARE!!



WSF President – Nancy Crosby

For the first time, ALL NARFE members had the opportunity to vote for NARFE officers, either online or with paper ballots issued in the *narfe* magazine; however, only 6.77% of NARFE members voted. In our Washington federation, the percentage was 6.32%. Of the state’s 5,820 members, only 368 voted. For the Tri-Cities chapter, 22 of 239 members voted or 9.21%, better than the average.

While a new NARFE secretary/treasurer, Kathryn Hensley, was elected, none of the 4 candidates running for NARFE president received the majority needed. Therefore, a runoff election is now being held for 3 of the 4 candidates (one has dropped out of the race). As NARFE members approved using “preferential voting” during the recent election, this ranking system will be used for the runoff. (See page 46, May *narfe*, for details

on preferential voting.) Members will again be able to vote electronically or by using the paper ballot inserted in the September *narfe* magazine. I encourage all members to vote. Note! All votes must be received by 11:59 p.m., September 30. So, if you are using a paper ballot, recommend allowing a week for delivery. Either way, please vote!



As President Lorie wrote in her article, several board members are scheduled to attend **FEDcon18**. Besides the conference, I am scheduled to attend the joint NARFE Executive Board and Federation Presidents’ Meeting prior to the conference. I’ll be providing highlights at the chapter’s September meeting. **4157**

With the closing of the Walla Walla chapter, 3 federation chapters have closed over the past year. Also closed are Tacoma Chapter 163 and Emerald Chapter 1701, and there may be more making the same decision.



While this is a trend throughout NARFE, experiencing it in our own federation definitely brings it closer to home. So, a thank you to all chapter members who are working to keep the Tri-Cities chapter open and viable.

The next federation board meeting will be Monday, September 10, at the La Quinta Inn & Suites, Tacoma. All members are welcome to attend. Since the last Chapter 1192 newsletter, we did appoint Steve Roy from Everett Chapter 193 as the new federation national legislative chairman. We are looking forward to his guidance. Also, the membership chairman position remains vacant, and is one that could be co-chaired; and, our vice president, Karol Kusunose, had to resign so we are looking for a replacement. If you are interested and/or want more information about these positions, please contact me.

WSF District V VP – Mary Binder

With the closure of the Walla Walla chapter, District V has only 2 chapters – Tri-Cities and Yakima. As with the Tri-Cities chapter, Yakima will also be resuming its meeting schedule in September.

A challenge for the Yakima chapter – finding a new meeting location. For a number of years, the chapter has met at a local community center for a nominal fee. Starting in January, there will be a significant charge. So, the search is on for a new location. Have ideas or suggestions for a location? Please contact me. Thank you!



NARFE WEBINARS

September 20 – Retirement Forms: The Devil’s in the Details (by James Marshall), 2 p.m., ET

October 11 – FEHB & Medicare: Understanding Your Choices (by James Marshall), 2 p.m., ET

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

Legislative – Mary Binder

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy month; but, that certainly doesn't mean advocacy stops August 31! For NARFE and all of us, it is ongoing and year round. As President Lorie wrote in her article, it is important to stay engaged; and, from NARFE in a recent *Advocacy Alert*, "To be successful in our efforts, you must stand united with fellow NARFE members."

Further, "Spreading the NARFE message in unison across the nation is crucial to the success of our efforts, and will set the scene for how legislators perceive the issues when they return to Washington in September. Legislators are more likely to weigh in on legislation when they hear from multiple constituents about that issue. So make your voice heard in the way you feel most comfortable ..."



With SO much proposed legislation, it is sometimes hard to know where to focus. NARFE's Advocacy Department recommends focusing on the following "Big 3" talking points:

- ◆ Support a Modest Pay Increase for Federal Employees in 2019;
- ◆ Prevent Federal Benefits Cuts; and,
- ◆ Modify Postal Reform Legislation

More details are on the NARFE website and in the *narfe* magazine.

Switching from the national level to a local focus, consider RiverFest 2018, Saturday, September 8, Columbia Park, Lampson Pits, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This "fun and free" event "for the whole family" is an educationally focused event to "celebrate our rivers" and to "learn why dams are important." Besides educational exhibits and hands-on learning experiences, attendees will hear from elected officials. Another way to continue to stay engaged. **0419**



NARFE-PAC – Bob Stewart

The NARFE-PAC quarterly reports for the period March 1 through June 30 are on the NARFE website. These reports are for the 6th quarter and have summary information for 2017/2018, congressional cycle.

A quick summary – as of June 30, chapter members had contributed \$2,620 to NARFE-PAC through money collected at meetings, sustainer contributions, one-time contributions, etc. This placed the chapter 6th in the state, up from 9th in the previous quarter. However, with 7 sustainers, the chapter ranked first; and, interestingly, the state ranks 5th in sustainers of all 50 states and national-only members!

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

So, looking ahead with fall elections looming closer and closer, contributions are needed more than ever as this is the time when more PAC distributions are typically made to candidates who have requested PAC support and who support NARFE's legislative agenda. To note, as of June 30, \$26,500 had been disbursed to state candidates during this 2-year cycle, ranking the state 5th of the 50 states in the amount of NARFE-PAC dollars disbursed. This is noteworthy!



So, please continue your support to NARFE-PAC! Also, a reminder – becoming a sustainer helps NARFE in planning for distributions as sustaining contributions give NARFE a more solid contribution base. It also does NOT mean a change to your annuity! Sustainer contributions are automatically deducted from the credit card a member provides when completing the sustainer form.

Alzheimer's Research – Larry Williams

For the first time, Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 will have a team for the Kennewick Walk to End Alzheimer's! See box below. Join us and/or support the team as a sponsor. Contact me or Lorie Bennett if you have questions (phone numbers, page 1). In advance thank you for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, October 14, Kennewick



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. As a walk "National Team," NARFE will again form teams and raise funds for walks across the country and, in return, will earn national recognition benefits. Join the Chapter 1192 team! Details and signup sheet at the September and October chapter meetings.



Return Service Requested

NARFE

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

FREE "Community Picnic"

FRIDAY, SEPT 21, 11AM-2PM

Southridge Sports & Events Complex
(Formerly the annual All Seniors Picnic)

Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

Welcome: Brenda Nickels

Transfer In: Tom Brown; Randy Grekowitz;
Susan Salamun

Transfer to National Only: Bruce Nicoll;
Joe Parsons; James Peterson

Dues Withholding: Janice Lake

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.
- ♦ Let me know if your contact information changes!
- ♦ Have questions about the membership renewal form? Let me know! Remember to check the "**National AND Chapter**" box to remain a Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 member.
- ♦ **Dues Withholding!** 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: July/August numbers: Elliott Burr; Desirae Haase; Tony Lorenz. Sorry no winners! Find 3 new numbers – **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!



FEHB Program Open Season Calendar

October 15 – Walla Walla

USPS; VA Medical Center; Corps of Engineers

October 15 – Pasco

TSA; Tri-Cities Airport

October 16 – Richland

2420/2440 Stevens Center; 3220 Innovation Blvd.; SSA

CALLER COORDINATOR REMINDERS !

Our chapter's callers will make their ANNUAL CALLS TO LOCAL CHAPTER MEMBERS prior to the September chapter meeting to help ensure we have correct contact information for these chapter members. Help us help you by responding to their calls or messages!

During the year, **please** remember to keep the chapter updated with your contact changes, including when "snowbirding!"

Additional callers are always needed. If you can help, please contact Darleen Wall,
Ph: 509.586.8232; Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

Condolences to the families of members:
Beryl Crouter; Sherry Martin; Ida Straub

Condolences to former member John Broderick on the passing of his wife, Mary Beth

Get Well wishes to Carl Gallion

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



Webmaster – Larry Williams

New meeting season is beginning, so a good time to check the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org, for a quick refresher on what is there. Meeting minutes, menus, programs, newsletters ... all on the website. Check it out!



Newsletter Editor – Mary Binder

Feedback: "I always read the newsletter ... keep up the good work. The newsletter is always interesting."

Question: Does it cost extra for artwork and photos in the newsletter? **Answer:** No! All are free!

Input welcome! Email: mary_binder@msn.com.

