

2026 Chapter 1192 Officers & Board Members

President, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
Vice President, Vacant	
Secretary, Vacant	
Treasurer, Liz Bowers	509.430.1836
Alzheimer's, Larry Williams	509.783.8554
Caller Coordinator, John Wetterling	509.545.8016
Hospitality/Zoom, Nancy Crosby	509.735.3288
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
PR/Service Officer, Mary Alice Binder	509.378.2494
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., CG Public House and Catering, Kennewick
Lunch: \$25; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

(Vegetarian & gluten free meals available, if ordered ahead)

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

(Board meetings are virtual; contact Nancy Crosby for Zoom link. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 18, 1:30 p.m.)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

September 2 – Heather Hill, deputy to the health officer, is scheduled to provide an overview on the BFHD, and some of its programs, e.g., the Community Health Assessment.



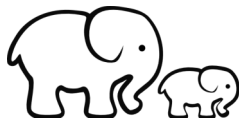
Benton-Franklin
Health District

Menu: Reuben sandwich, salad, dessert

September 2 – Annual chapter “white elephant” fundraiser for the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Items needed! (See page 4.)

Menu: Orange chicken, salad, dessert



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 John Wetterling by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

July – August, Volume 2026, Issue 4

President – Mary Alice Binder

In preparing this newsletter, it is hard to grasp July is here, and the celebrations already underway for our country’s 250th anniversary! What a momentous time in our nation’s history. I hope it is one you are enjoying and that it is memorable for you. At times I feel as though I am in a virtual history class!! *(Speaking of which, the logo creator/credit goes to: classroomclipart.com/)*



So, we are in the midst of summer, which means a hiatus from chapter meetings and a break in outreach events in July and August. Information in this newsletter will help you plan ahead for the fall, provide some updates, and includes a few reminders.



Your chapter board remains busy during these months, but also tries to weave in some breaks, too! The board had a virtual meeting June 22; the next one is scheduled for August 18. *(Details on this page, left column.)* The meetings are **OPEN TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS!** If you have never attended one, or it has been a while, please consider joining us.

As previously announced, Darleen Wall, our chapter’s caller coordinator since June 2018, stepped down in June. On behalf of the chapter, the board sent her a card, thank you letter and gift card for her dedication and years of service. Recently, she provided a “thank you.” See box, below. And, for an update on our new caller coordinator, John Wetterling, and a look ahead, see page 4, this newsletter.

From Darleen Wall

Dearest Friends:

This comes to thank you for the opportunity of serving as chapter caller coordinator. I sincerely value your friendship and will never forget your kindness and generosity ... the world is a whole lot nicer because of people like you.

*As always,
Darleen Wall*

P.S. Take good care of each other.



On behalf of the chapter board, we wish for everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you for your support to the chapter and NARFE.

Another REMINDER to Members!

2026 suggestions for doing something you have not done, or done for a while, with Chapter 1192.

- ♦ Attend a chapter meeting if you've never been, or not been in a while
- ♦ Bring a guest/prospective member to a meeting
- ♦ Recruit a new member, or get a current or dropped member to renew
- ♦ Attend a virtual board meeting
- ♦ Volunteer to coordinate for a chapter meeting speaker/program, or chapter group event
- ♦ Donate to/increase a donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund, or to NARFE-PAC and/or become a PAC sustainer
- ♦ Contact an elected official
- ♦ Volunteer to help at an outreach event
- ♦ Explore the chapter, WSF or NARFE websites to become more familiar with them
- ♦ Sign up for electronic NARFE updates
- ♦ Attend **FEDcon26**, Indianapolis, August 23-25
- ♦ Attend the WSF annual meeting and Regions IX Symposium, Ellensburg, October 1-3

The above are a few suggestions! Thank you to those who have already responded. More ideas? Questions? Contact Mary Binder at: 509.378.2494!

Hospitality Coordinator – Nancy Crosby

Progress! Menus have been selected for our chapter's September thru December meetings, and by the end of summer, I expect to have the menus for 2027 selected.

Good news – no increase to the \$25 lunch charge!

Thanks for the feedback/suggestions. They have helped in my meetings with CG Public House & Catering.

Special Recognition!

At its August 13 "Spuds & Suds" annual fundraiser at the REACH Museum,

the museum's foundation will recognize Steve & Shirley Simmons, owners of CG Public House & Catering "... for their extraordinary leadership, philanthropy, and enduring commitment to the Mid-Columbia region."

Thank you and congratulations, Steve & Shirley!

Desserts! Input I received regarding quantities and/or a larger portion is currently on a back burner as it would involve increasing our lunch cost. At its June board meeting, I discussed the issue with the board. Its decision was to keep the lunch price as is. However, we want to ensure ALL members and guests at a meeting receive dessert! **Manners 101 – "seconds" come after "firsts."** **Every member who wants dessert should get a first serving! Thank you for the understanding and support!**



Service Officer – Mary Binder (Acting)

Success! The 2026/2027 Tri-Cities, WA Senior Resource Guide has been published and distributed in the Tri-Cities by Pinnacle Marketing Group, e.g., to senior centers, doctors offices, etc. I have copies for the chapter's September meeting. Want or need a copy before then? Contact me! And, a hint ... find our chapter's NARFE ad on page 25!



For our members in the Moses Lake, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima areas, fear not! The 2026/2027 guides for your areas are in various stages of production. There will be NARFE ads in each of them. If you need an update on the production/distribution, please contact me.

Reminder! NARFE has helpful tools for its members. Two of the most important: NARFE's white paper, *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*, and its F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events, What Your Survivors Should Know*. So, a question for you: Are your affairs in order? If not, a summer project to tackle!

Reminder! Medicare Part B – several federal plans offer premium reimbursements in varying amounts. Check your plan, and its guidance, for the reimbursement, if applicable.

Reminder! WISer Pilot Program – A U.S. Centers

for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) pilot program, January 2 thru December 31, 2031. For an updated overview, suggest the May 12 document from the Congressional Research Service. Go to: www.EveryCRSReport.com. In the search bar, type: WISer Pilot Program. Washington state is one of 6 states in the program. More at: www.CMS.gov.



WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

Events and elections ... busy months ahead!

- ♦ **August 23-25, FEDCon26**, NARFE's biennial conference, Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis. For details, pages 42-43, June/July NARFE Magazine, and the NARFE website.
- ♦ **NARFE Elections!** See page 61, June/July NARFE Magazine. Members who have provided NARFE email addresses will receive electronic ballots. Quick and easy process. For those needing a paper ballot, PLEASE note NARFE's instructions/time frames! Either way, please, please, PLEASE VOTE!
- ♦ **October 1-3**, Region IX Symposium and WSF annual meeting in Ellensburg. Join members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington! Details at: www.narfe.org/wa/. Yes! A GREAT meet, greet and learn opportunity.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

June was a busy month! Two back-to-back outreach events at the Pasco Red Lion after the June 3 chapter meeting! Both had some positive NARFE results! Thank you to volunteers: Johanna Caylor; Ellen LeVee; Santos Ortega; John Wetterling!

- ♦ **June 4-7**, Washington State Association of Letters Carriers state convention. Photo, right, with Ellen at our table. NARFE is invited back for the association's 2027 convention in Walla Walla.
- ♦ **June 14-16**, Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association's state convention. NARFE table was next to the association's auxiliary table. We helped entertain 4 siblings whose dad was attending and mother an auxiliary member! I taught this little guy how make a "hat" w/flag. (Used a chapter newsletter! What a cutie. So much fun.) 2027 convention: Centralia area!



Below are future events at which I am targeting having a NARFE/chapter presence. (Not all details available.)

- ♦ **September 17**, the 31st Annual COMMUNITY Senior Picnic, HAPO Center, Pasco.*
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, Fingernail Stage, Richland.*
- ♦ **October 13**, the fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.*
- ♦ **October 31**, Yakima Valley Veterans Stand Down & Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun Dome, State Fair Park, Yakima.*
- ♦ **November 6**, Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., HAPO Center, Pasco.*
- ♦ **November 14**, Tri-Cities Wine Festival, Three Rivers Convention Center, 7 to 10 p.m. The chapter is again scheduled to staff the coat check. Donations go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.*

*Volunteers needed. Please contact me if you can help, have questions or need more information. Thanks!

Other announcements:

- ♦ **NARFE'S 2026 Photo Contest** – 2027 winners, to be announced in the August NARFE Magazine.
- ♦ **TCRCC** – Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce upcoming lunches/programs, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$36 (currently, NO TAX added). The chapter is a TCRCC member. Contact me if you want to attend:
July 22, HAPO Center; Program: WA Retail & Hospitality – Policy, Trends, What's Next.
August 26, 3 Rivers Convention Center. Program: U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse's (R-04) annual update.
- ♦ **NARFE Upcoming Webinars** – Several in July! See page 11, June/July 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>

825 Jadwin Ave., Suite 160K, Richland WA 99352
Phone: 509.453.7462

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

Legislative/NARFE-PAC – Mary Binder

August is NARFE's annual "Grassroots Advocacy Month!" Details in the August NARFE Magazine. A great time to contact our legislators!



While the NARFE Magazine is a GREAT source for NARFE's legislative activities, it can be dated as there is a 3-month lead time for publication. So, how to get the most current information? NARFE's website! Legislative updates are weekly. Log into the NARFE website, then go to: Advocacy and Bill Tracker. You'll find 5 categories of bills NARFE Advocacy is monitoring and whether NARFE supports, does not support, or has no position on a bill. As of late June, NARFE was monitoring 65 bills!

PAC Reminder! June 30 ended the 6th quarter in the 2-year congressional NARFE-PAC cycle. Quarterly PAC reports are expected on the NARFE website about mid-July. Please consider a donation; and, a sincere thank you to all donors, no matter how large or small the donation, and to our sustainers whose ongoing monthly donations help NARFE in its PAC budgeting process. Not a sustainer? Please consider becoming one. (See page 9, June/July NARFE Magazine.) **Thank you!**

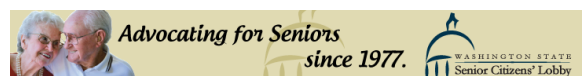


State Legislation:

Need information or an update on Washington state laws, legislation, the legislature, etc.? A good website to use is:

<https://leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/>.

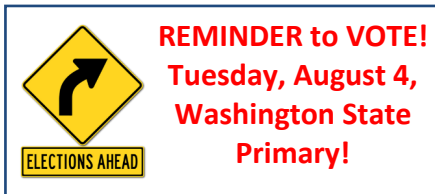
Reminder! Our Washington State Federation has been a long-time member of the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby. The lobby's monthly virtual meeting agendas have a broad spectrum of topics and information. Some of the presentations are on the lobby's website along with the list of member organizations and their missions. Go to: waseniorlobby.org/member-organizations/.



Return Service Requested

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

TO:



Treasurer – Liz Bowers

As noted at the June chapter meeting, the chapter had just over \$22,000 in its Gesa Credit Union accounts, which again reflected an overall steady balance with the normal fluctuations we have each month. So, the chapter continues to be on solid ground. This is good. Questions? Feel free to contact me.



Membership Coordinator – Johanna Caylor

As of June 27, we had **449** members – **208**/chapter; **241**/national-only in the chapter area. This is a decrease of 22 members: 5/chapter; 17/national only since the numbers in the May/June chapter newsletter. It is a NARFE trend, not one unique to our chapter. I continue to believe that while some members have passed away, some just forget to renew! Both NARFE and our Washington state federation are working tirelessly on this issue, especially with the national-only members. For the chapter, I am also continuing to try to recruit, retain and get members reinstated. Have ideas? Suggestions? Want to help? Please contact me.



Dues Withholding: I know I sound like “a broken record,” but I will continue to play this record – for retirees, please consider the dues withholding option! It helps avoid accidentally forgetting to renew your membership. Call me if you have any questions! Also, see page 47, June/July NARFE Magazine.



NARFE Chapter Life Members: The chapter vs. NARFE will now notify you for your chapter dues.

Membership issues contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739. Email: annahojx2@gmail.com.

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Website: www.narfe1192.org. Recent updates! Questions? Comments? Issues? Contact me!



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATE!

Editor's note: Member John Wetterling has volunteered to serve as the chapter's caller coordinator, replacing Darleen Wall who has stepped down. Several things to note:

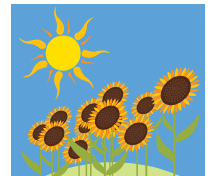
- ♦ Nancy Crosby and Johanna Caylor will be working with John over the summer to update the callers' lists.
- ♦ More callers are needed. If you can serve, contact John!
- ♦ Prior to the September chapter meeting, callers will be making their annual calls to chapter members within our geographic area to verify contact information and preferences. If a message is left, please reply to the caller!

Questions? Need info? Want to volunteer as a caller? **Contact John Wetterling: Phone, 509.545.8016; Email: wetterlingjohn@gmail.com.**

Sunshine Coordinator – Faye Vlieger

(Since the May/June newsletter.)

Passings: Clarence Alford, member Pat Alford's husband; condolences. Members Nadine Frindrich and Robert Larson; condolences to the families.



Thinking of you to: (Editor's note: card to Faye from the chapter board after her recent surgery.) **Know someone needing some sunshine?" Call or email Faye: 509.961.1095; einvlieger@aol.com.**

Alzheimer's Coordinator – Larry Williams

Reminders for your calendars, donating, volunteering:

- ♦ **October 7**, the chapter's annual “white elephant” fundraiser. **Think about what item/items to bring!**
- ♦ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Howard Amon Park, Fingernail Stage, Richland. Our team info at: www.alz.org/walk. Click on “Find A Team.” Type “NARFE Chapter 1192” in “Team Name” box.
- ♦ **November 14**, Tri-Cities Wine Festival coat check, Three Rivers Convention Center. Volunteers needed!

**END
ALZ**