



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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.narfe.org/wa/ Tri-Cities: www.narfe1192.org

Announcements: Daylight Saving Time begins March 8; Tax Day is April 15!

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, Darleen Wall	509.308.2765
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: April 20 [tentative], 1:30 p.m.)

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March 4 – Matt Murphy, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, government/regional affairs director, is scheduled to provide a 2026 state legislative session update.

Menu: meatless spaghetti with veggies, garlic bread, salad, dessert

April 1 – Returning! Terry Maurer, antique appraiser, returns for another “world-of-antiques” update. *Bring questions, and item/items for appraisal (no weapons)!*

Menu: French onion soup, grilled cheese sandwich, 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 Darleen Wall by noon, Sunday, prior to a chapter meeting. See phone numbers, above.

March – April, Volume 2026, Issue 2

President – Mary Alice Binder

Hello from Indian Wells, California!

When you receive the newsletter, I will be on the last few weeks of my wintering here. Definitely a lovely change of scenery, and with communication technology in today's world, I can stay connected and continue with commitments. Also, a special “thank you” to all who have volunteered to fill in when needed.



To date, the year has had some hiccups and changes, but we are weathering through them, which is good news:

- ◆ Nancy Crosby, chapter immediate past president, had a nasty fall in early January. She is now home and continuing her recovery after being hospitalized for several weeks. All the best, Nancy!
- ◆ Treasurer Liz Bowers added to her duties by stepping forward to conduct the January and February chapter meetings for Nancy who was going to do so for me ... before her “oops.” Great job, Liz! Thanks!
- ◆ Our website was “hacked and compromised.” Webmaster Larry Williams worked with the website provider, Cline Communications, and thankfully, he had a website backup he could reload. Thanks, Larry!
- ◆ Caller Coordinator Darleen Wall has also had “tech” challenges but is working through them while trying to ensure she can stay connected with our chapter's callers. Thank you, Darleen!
- ◆ NARFE is implementing some membership-related changes, and exploring other database-related changes that are keeping Membership Coordinator Johanna Caylor, and Treasurer Liz, busy reviewing the options, implementations and implications. For example, the chapter will now bill our chapter life members their chapter dues vs. NARFE doing the billing. Thank you, Johanna and Liz, for working the changes and potential changes, besides other duties!
- ◆ Sunshine Coordinator Faye Vlieger worked with June Ollero to conduct the January meeting “Process Improvement” session in lieu of Nancy after her fall. Thank you, Faye and June! Great job. Good results!

To everyone who has helped or is helping in any way, a sincere thank you! We are continuing to move ahead! Our chapter would not exist without all of you!



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 a speaker/program for a chapter meeting
- ◆ 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 Washington State Federation annual meeting, 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

Lunch menus are planned for the March, April, May and June chapter meetings. Besides providing the menus in the chapter newsletters, they are posted on the chapter website, www.narfe1192.org. Suggestions and comments are welcome!

Zoom (Virtual) Meeting Information!

Chapter board meetings are virtual via Zoom.

All members welcome!

Contact Nancy Crosby, 509.735.3288, for details.

Service Officer – Vacant

[Editor's note: Service Officer Nancy Crosby provided the following information for the newsletter, but now needs to continue to focus on her physical therapy and healing from her fall. Therefore, she submitted her resignation from her service officer position. Thank you, Nancy, for your time and service in this position. All the very best in your healing journey.]

On January 6, I experienced a bad fall that resulted in an almost month-long hospital stay, and now, in-home physical therapy. I cannot stress enough how important "balance" is to us as we get older or experience other conditions that can cause balance problems. Recommendation! Consult your physician regarding testing you on balance issues and the possible



need for treatment. Working with a physical therapist is often beneficial and your physician can request therapy to help with walking, using stairs and moving around in your home or yard.

For members with Medicare Part B – several federal plans offer premium reimbursements in varying amounts, from several hundred to over a thousand dollars. Reimbursements are not always automatic; many require proof of payment. Check your plan, and its guidance for the reimbursement, if applicable.



WISeR Pilot Program. The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began the Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Model Pilot Program on January 1. More info at: www.CMS.gov, including a factsheet and "Qs and As." The CMS factsheet states the WISeR model "will harness enhanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to streamline the review process for certain items and services vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse, helping people with Medicare receive safe and appropriate care and protecting federal taxpayers. The model is voluntary and will run for six performance years from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2031." The primary target is Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries. Federal employees and retirees enrolled in a federal plan "are not directly impacted." Six states are in the pilot: New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, Washington.

WSF Eastern Washington VP – Mary Binder

Dates, dates and dates – no, NOT for eating, but for your calendar! To note:

- ◆ **August 23-25, FEDcon26**, NARFE's Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. This is NARFE's biennial conference. Details will be sent electronically, in future NARFE magazines and on the NARFE website: www.narfe.org. A GREAT opportunity to meet, greet and learn!
- ◆ **October 1-3**, the Region IX Symposium and WSF annual meeting. (Note: the Washington State Federation is one of 5 in Region IX. The other 4 are: Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Oregon.) The meetings will be in Ellensburg. More details in the months ahead but another GREAT meet, greet, learn opportunity.
- ◆ **2026 Walks to End Alzheimer's**. For our chapter members in Eastern Washington: September 19, Moses Lake; September 26, Wenatchee; October 10, Richland; October 17, Yakima.

Both the federation and chapter are planning to assist members with some financial costs for the biennial conference and the Region IX Symposium. Also, there are elections this year for both NARFE national officer and Washington State Federation positions. Details will be sent electronically and provided in print.



Public Relations – Mary Binder

With spring arriving soon, and the popping up and out of spring flowers and foliage, I am experiencing the same for 2026 outreach events for NARFE and our chapter. Yes, dates for events are popping up and out in emails, in letters, on calendars, etc.

For planning, typically, spring and fall are our busiest seasons. Looking ahead, below are some known dates/ events at which I am targeting having a NARFE and chapter presence. I expect to add to the list in future newsletters as more 2026 events and dates are confirmed. Stay tuned!

- ◆ **March 21**, Congressman Dan Newhouse-hosted Veteran Service Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick.*
- ◆ **April 14**, the spring Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.*
- ◆ **June 14-16**, Washington Rural Letter Carriers Association's annual meeting, Pasco Red Lion. The chapter has been asked to have a NARFE table and to provide a presentation about NARFE.*
- ◆ **October 10**, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Richland; updates in future newsletters and at chapter meetings from Alzheimer's Coordinator Larry Williams.*
[Note: See page 2, this newsletter, for other Eastern Washington Walk dates.]
- ◆ **October 13**, the fall Senior Times Expo, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Southridge Sports Complex, Kennewick.*
- ◆ **October 17**, Yakima Valley Veterans Stand Down & Benefits Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun Dome, State Fair Park, Yakima.*

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

Other reminders:

- ◆ **March 6** – deadline for submitting photos to NARFE for the 2027 calendar! Theme: "Our American Adventure." Info at: www.narfe.org/photocontest.
- ◆ **March 13, 3 p.m., ET** – application deadline for the 2026 NARFE-FEEA scholarship program, open to graduating high school seniors related to NARFE members and planning to attend college in 2026. Info at: <https://feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/>.
- ◆ Digital **NARFE Magazine**. Save NARFE dollars. Go to: www.narfe.org/communications/narfe-magazine/.



Happy Passover and Easter
Passover begins sundown, April 1
Easter, Sunday, April 5



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

Busy and challenging times, both at the federal and state levels! It is time consuming, and not always easy, to keep up. Following are a couple of helpful tools.

For NARFE, its magazine, website and electronic updates via email, provide extensive information on the legislative issues NARFE staff are working on members' behalf. And, thanks to Washington State Federation Legislative Coordinator Doug Rushton and Webmaster Curtis Price, there is "bill tracker" info on the state's website. Go to: narfe.org/wa/, then Resources, Links, Advocacy, and Annotated NARFE Bill Tracker [Jan-Feb2026] and NARFE Bill Tracker.

Our Washington state legislative session started January 12 and is scheduled to end March 12. The state's Legislative Information Center is a "one-stop hub for bills, meetings, and contacts." Go to: <https://leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/>.

MARCH IS NARFE-PAC MONTH!

Yes, it is that time of the year – a month with an extra emphasis on supporting "PAC," that is, NARFE's political action committee. Information will be on the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, under the Advocacy tab, in the March NARFE Magazine, and reminders sent electronically. While contributions are welcomed and appreciated throughout the year, an annual reminder at this time is also very helpful – whether members make an annual or extra contribution, or decide to become a sustainer with a monthly contribution either via a credit card or annuity. (Note: Sustainer info at: www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer.)

Our NARFE region, Region IX, is THE smallest but STILL LEADS all 10 NARFE regions in "mean average! This is an awesome statistic. Please consider a contribution, an extra one or amount, or becoming a sustainer. **THANK YOU!**

Return Service Requested

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

TO:

REMINDER!
Contacting our elected officials is
SO IMPORTANT!
How to do this?
See a NARFE magazine or its website.

Treasurer – Liz Bowers

As of February 1, our chapter Gesa accounts had more than \$22,700, an increase of \$1,700-plus since my last report. Our budget is solid. We received, for example, \$425 from the NARFE Washington State Federation for 17 new chapter members in 2025 at \$25/each. That is good news! Also, required tax paperwork has been filed, and, I remain optimistic our 2026 chapter budget will be about the same as for 2025. Questions? Contact me.



Membership Chairman – Johanna Caylor

As of February 14, we had **481** members – **221**/chapter; **260**/national-only in the chapter area. This is an increase of 4 chapter members and a decrease of 8 national-only members since my last report.

Reinstated members: Dennis Clausen; Santos Ortega. Welcome back!

Dues Withholding: I am like a scratchy, broken record but am continuing to play the dues withholding “tune!” Whether you are a newer member or retiree, please seriously consider enrolling in dues withholding! Save money! Contact me; I can help you.



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

Snowbirds! Looking forward to having you back! Please ensure your contact information is up to date.

Please contact me if you are having membership issues!

Contact info: Ph: 509.375.0739.

Email: annahojx2@gmail.com. I can help!

Webmaster – Larry Williams

Our website, www.narfe1192.org, was “hacked and compromised,” recently but is OK now. (See Page 1 article.) Questions? Contact me.



CALLER COORDINATOR UPDATES!

Repeating the caller list from the last newsletter ...
Below is our current list of callers, and the “alpha” letters they call based on the first letter of a member’s last name:
(A-B) Alicia Mercado **(C-F) Darleen Wall**
(G) Randy Grekowicz; **(H-K) Debbie Carlson**
(L-M) Verneice Skinner **(N-R) Janice Lake**
(S) Gail Splett **(T-Z) Nancy Crosby**

Please, PLEASE return voice messages from your caller!

Didn’t receive a call? Prefer a text message or email? No longer want to be called for meetings? Have feedback, suggestions? Let me, or Nancy Crosby know!

Darleen Wall, (M) 509.308.2765;
Email: jdwall2@frontier.com.
Nancy Crosby, (M) 509.735.3288;
Email: crosbynancy56@gmail.com



Sunshine News – Faye Vlieger

(Since the January/February newsletter.)

Condolences to: family of member Roger Heusser; family of member Rober Larson; members Larry Williams and DeLayne Kruschke on Patty Kruschke’s passing, Larry’s sister/DeLayne’s mother.
Thinking of you to: members Nancy Crosby, Gil Gloria.
Know someone needing some sunshine?” Call or email me: 509.961.1095; invlieger@aol.com.



Alzheimer’s Research Fund – Larry Williams

As reported in the last newsletter, 2025 was a good donation year for the chapter. I am optimistic we can repeat this in 2026. A couple of things to note:

- ♦ The chapter’s annual “white elephant” fundraiser will be at the October vs. November meeting.
- ♦ The chapter will again have a team at the area’s annual Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Saturday, October 10, John Dam Plaza, Richland. Join us, donate, or do both!

