



DATE: February 26, 2024

FROM: Barb Leetch, Region VIII Alzheimer's Coordinator

TO: Region VIII VP, Federation Presidents and Alzheimer's Coordinators

SUBJ: NARFE Region VIII Alzheimer's Association Report for January 2024

We did it! We have exceeded our fundraising goal of \$16 million by January 31, 2025. Thank you all for making this happen.

As of the end of January, the NARFE fundraising total was \$16,139,625. This amount includes the Longest Day (\$3,355) and the Walk to End Alzheimer's (\$107,470) for 2023. During the month of January, our members raised a total of \$42,961, **up** \$1,126 from donations received in January 2023. The amount raised by Region VIII in FY 2024 is \$11,172 which is **down** \$891 from the same reporting period in FY 2023. Below is the breakout by Federation for both reporting periods:

	FY 2024	FY 2023	Difference
California	\$ 8,663	\$ 9,347	-\$ 684
Hawaii	\$ 1,185	\$ 1,233	-\$ 48
Nevada	\$ 1,324	\$ 1,483	-\$ 159
Total	\$11,172	\$12,063	-\$ 891

Fiscal Year 2024 covers the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The Longest Day 2024. The Longest Day will be on June 20, 2024, and is the day with the most light – the summer solstice. On this day, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through a fundraising activity of their choice. Now would be a great time to start planning your fundraising activity. Register for the event at <https://act.alz.org/thelongestday>. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name.

Walk to End Alzheimer's. The NARFE Goal for the 2024 Walks is \$100,000. Teams can now register for the walk this year at alz.org/narfewalks. The Walk is the largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name. NARFE will be listed as one of the sponsors and will appear on the back of the Alzheimer's Walk t-shirt.

Vision problems could be key to early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, study shows

Julia Gomez, USA Today, January 26, 2024

A new study suggests that Alzheimer's disease possibly begins to manifest in some patients as a disease that causes vision problems and is often overlooked. But more awareness could lead to an early Alzheimer's diagnosis.

The study published by the Lancet, found that 94% of patients diagnosed with Posterior Cortical Atrophy, or PCA, a neurodegenerative condition that impairs one's vision and mainly affects the occipital and parietal cortex, also had Alzheimer's. One of the researchers, Marianne Chapleau, shared the findings of the study on X.

"These data indicate posterior cortical atrophy typically presents as a pure, young-onset dementia syndrome that is highly specific for underlying Alzheimer's disease pathology," states the study.

Researchers state PCA is categorized by the decline in visual processing skills and deterioration of regions in the back of a patient's brain.

"From a clinical point of view, posterior cortical atrophy is probably the second most common clinical presentation of Alzheimer's disease after memory loss, yet it is under-recognized, and patients can go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for years," Dr. Gil Rabinovici, neurologist and senior author of this study, told Medical News Today.

Rabinovici, who is also the director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of California — San Francisco, said the disease can progress to the point of "functional blindness."

The study concluded the syndrome presents itself more in women and PCA begins to manifest around the age of 59 on average, but normally occurs in folks between 50 to 65 years old.

The study's researchers state more awareness of PCA is needed for early detection and treatment.

Weird vision problems: Symptoms of Posterior Cortical Atrophy

Symptoms can vary from patient to patient.

"The most common symptoms are consistent with damage to the posterior cortex of the brain, an area responsible for processing visual information," writes the Alzheimer's Association.

According to the University of San Francisco's Memory and Aging Center, there is no test that can be used to diagnose PCA.

Both to the Alzheimer's Association and UCSF state the following are possible symptoms:

- Issues with vision
- Struggle to recognize people, places, or objects
- Difficulty reading lines of text
- Unable to judge distances correctly
- Struggles to tell the difference between moving and stationary objects
- Inability to tell if there is more than one object
- Increased sensitivity to light or shiny things
- Difficulty seeing in low light
- Can't identify left from right
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Behavioral changes
- The Alzheimer's Association also states there are no established diagnostic criteria for PCA, and it is often unrecognized in patients. Some studies state that about 5% of Alzheimer's patients have PCA, but that percentage can be as high as 15% because the condition is often overlooked.
- According to the association, researchers have already started working on creating a standard definition and diagnostic criteria.

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Please remember that Chapter dues CAN NOT be used for donations to the Alzheimer's Association. Even if the Chapter is closing, they cannot donate the funds to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research.

Donations collected from NARFE members should be sent to the Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator for submission to the Alzheimer's Association and not be held for another month.

Thank you so much for all your support to make it possible to improve the lives of so many others!

Regards,
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