

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • April 2008



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Al Burge

Vice President: Ron Gill

Secretary: Kay Kozminski

Treasurer: Mary Balian

Board Member: Ralph Angulo

Board Member: William Holman

Board Member: Lois Shaw

Past President: Ray Weinmann

District IV Vice President: Bill Powers

Chapter Chairpersons

Alzheimer's: Elizabeth Owen

Historian: Vacant

Legislative: Bill Holman

Membership: co-chairpersons:

Orvie Jensen

Lois Shaw

Newsletter: Sara Boore

Programs: Vacant

Public Relations: Gary Kydland

Service Officer: Ralph Angulo

Sunshine: Marie Wall

Telephone: Mary Tate

Legislators

Senator Maria Cantwell

website: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov>

Senator Cantwell's Director for the Olympic Peninsula

Robert Thoms - (253) 572-2281

The Commerce Building

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615, Tacoma, Washington

Senator Patty Murray

website: <http://www.murray.senate.gov>

Senator Murray's Director for the Olympic Peninsula

Mary McBride - (253) 572-3636

The Commerce Building

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 650, Tacoma, Washington

Representative Norm Dicks

website: <http://www.house.gov/dicks>

345 6th Street, Suite 500, Bremerton, WA 98337 and 332 East Fifth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362 (Staffed by Judith Morris)

Tuesday 9:30 A.M.-Noon, Thursday 2:00-5:00 P.M., and by appointment 452-3370)

New Meeting Location in Sequim!

April Chapter Program

April 22, 2008, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

Sequim, WA

The NARFE Chapter 1006 April Speaker will be Ed Chadd from Stream Keepers. The talk will consist of 15 minutes about Stream Keepers and another 15 to 20 minutes about Stream Keepers' data findings.

The Active Federal Employees input will follow shortly.

Lunch will be at 11:30 A.M. and the Speaker will be at 12:00. You do not have to have lunch to attend the meeting

President's Corner

After consideration of many inputs asking for a different meeting place, the attending members at the March chapter meeting voted to change the meeting place to the Paradise Restaurant, 703 North Sequim Avenue in Sequim. The directions are: take the Sequim Avenue exit toward town. Continue on Sequim Avenue about 1.5 miles. The restaurant is on the left just north of the Sequim High School grounds.

The Executive Board voted to pay the Registration Fees for the upcoming Washington State Federation meeting in Walla Walla. Please consider attending. We have spots for 11 and only 4 have signed up.

The Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-ND, has submitted legislation (S. 2603) to create a commission to recommend cuts to Retired Federal Pay as well as other mandatory programs.

The NARFE National Office continues to have problems with the new contractor sending out annual dues. They have indicated that no one is being dropped until the software is corrected. They ask for more patience while they work on fixing the problems.

Let's have a good turnout for the April meeting.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Update

These two laws are still with us, unfortunately. First, let me give a brief explanation of the two laws.

WEP—The Social Security Amendments of 1983 include a provision that greatly reduces the Social Security benefit of a retired or disabled worker who also receives a government annuity based on his or her own earnings. It applies to anyone who became 62 (or disabled) after 1985 and becomes eligible for his or her government annuity after 1985. Both must occur after 1985. Congress provided for a five year phase in on the reduction so that the maximum effect would not be felt until 1990.

There are several exceptions to the WEP, one of which is a federal survivor annuitant. The survivor annuitant's own Social Security is not affected. The other exceptions I won't go into here.

GPO—Legislation was enacted in 1977 to prevent government retirees from collecting both a government annuity based on their own work in non-Social Security covered employment and Social Security benefits based on their spouse's work record. The new law became effective with government employees who were first eligible to retire in December 1982 and later. The law provides that two thirds of the government annuity offsets whatever Social Security benefits would be payable to the retired government worker as a spouse (wife, husband, widow, widower). For example, a spouse who receives a civil service benefit of \$900 a month based on his or her own earnings applies for a Social Security widow(er)'s benefit. The widow(er)'s benefit is \$500. Two thirds of his or her annuity, or \$600, totally offsets the Social Security widow(er)'s benefit. He or she, therefore, receives no widow(er)'s benefit from Social Security.

In addition to federal annuitants, the GPO affects thousands of state and municipal workers, as well as teachers and police whose work is not covered by Social Security.

There are several exceptions, most notable are:

Anyone who is receiving only a federal survivor annuity and not his or her own federal retiree annuity is exempt. Neither the survivor annuitant's own Social Security nor the widow's benefit from the husband's Social Security is affected.

Also exempt are Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees and annuitants and former Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants who transferred to FERS.

Senate Bill S-206 was introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein, D-Cal., to repeal both the WEP and GPO. Both of the Washington State Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell are co-sponsors. There are a total of 37 co-sponsors, 30 Democrats, 6 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

House Bill HR-82 was introduced by Representative Howard Berman, D-Calif., to repeal both the GPO and WEP. There are 214 Democrats and 128 Republicans as co-sponsors. Three co-sponsors are from Washington State. Our own Representative Norm Dicks from this district IS NOT a co-sponsor.

Neither bill has been brought to a vote in either chamber.

—ORVIE JENSEN, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Active Federal Employees

The Congressional Budget Office has recommended that Active Employees not get matching TSP funds until they have invested 5% of their salary. After 5%, the government would match until 10% of salary was reached.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership

Welcome to our new members. Robert McDaniel, retired and living in Quilcene, to our new current federal employee, Donald Dorr of Sequim and Hallie Funkhouse of Sequim that has transferred to our chapter from Reno, Nevada. Welcome to Chapter #1006 and we hope to meet you on April 22nd meeting at our new location, Paradise Restaurant, 703 South Sequim Avenue in Sequim. We will gather between 11 and 11:30 for lunch and our meeting starts at 12 noon.

Is your name on this list???? You have been sent your second dues notice and your dues were due February 2008. Charles Barnett, Duncan Dupree, Frederick Herzog, Martha Hutchinson, Sharon McCarthy, Jim Sperber and Wayne Waag. You can your payment to NARFE, 606 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314-1943

If you have any questions, call me at 452-6374.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

March Meeting Recap

Speaker Ms. Warne of master Gardeners reviewed necessary spring gardening work and addressed problems being encountered. The Extension Office is in Room 830-4, Old Court House, Port Angeles. Call them at 417-2279 with your questions.

Mary Tate, Telephone Chairperson, expressed the need for more callers. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Final plans are being made for attendance at the Washington State Federation Convention in Walla Walla, May 19-21. The Chapter will be represented by Al Burge, Ray Weinmann, Lois Shaw and Bud Shaw. They will report back to chapter members at the May 27 meeting.

Exploration continues for a possible new location for chapter meetings. Since the majority of members live in the Sequim area, that area is being "tested" to see if it might be a better location. It was decided to meet at the Paradise Restaurant in Sequim. We will be ordering from the menu, and hope we will have a great turnout.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY