

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • May 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!

May Chapter Program

May 27, 2008, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

Sequim, WA

The NARFE Chapter 1006 May Speaker will be our chapter president, Al Burge. Al will have just returned from the Washington State Federation of Chapters Convention, and he'll be sharing the highlights with us.

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

President's Corner

We had a very good turnout at our last meeting. Despite more people attending than planned, the restaurant handled the situation well.

We continue to have some open position. Please try to participate in the chapter affairs. The Chapter Executive Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at the Sequim Library meeting room. Any one is invited to attend.

There is troubling news for NARFE. OPM, in its annual call letter to the plans for Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) has called for separate retiree and active employee coverage. The request is for the plans to offer alternate choice for Medicare eligible enrollees. Additionally, OPM has asked that all benefit changes to be "cost neutral." Read that as reduced benefits. The push is to get more active employees and more retired employees enrolled in HSAs and HRAs. Also, part of the cost neutral calculation can be offset by higher co-payments. Can some of our retired employees who do not think belonging to NARFE get the message. There are forces out there that want to REDUCE OUR BENEFITS!

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Active Federal Employees

Federal employee benefits include medical insurance, life insurance, long term care insurance, dental insurance, and vision insurance - but not short-term disability insurance. To close this gap in benefits, OPM has submitted a proposal to Congress calling for an employee funded, OPM negotiated, program on a voluntary basis.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership

Welcome to Bruce Hill. Mr. Hill has transferred to our chapter from Ventura, Ca. He resides at Dominion Terrace in Sequim.

We had 37 members at the April meeting in Sequim at our new location. We can order off the menu and our food is served to us at our table. You can spend a little or a lot, depends on your appetite. Many ordered the special of the day, soup, half sandwich and salad. \$6.50 plus tip. (We don't pass the tip bucket) I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the food and I urge you to come and join your friends this month.

My M-112 report that I receive monthly always lists the good news along with the bad news. So here is the bad news. Two have been dropped for lack of dues payment, they are Georgia Reynolds and Patricia Milliren. Those whose dues were due March 2008 are Richard Fort, Kemper Hall, Faye Hayden, Robert Hoyle, Lee Raymond, Elodye Teefy, Harry Thayer, Stephen Treacy, Jean Wright and Pete Zamboni. If you have paid - I apologize. And we have one death to report, Don Wildman. Don was 93 years old and a member for many years.

Don't forget to notify our editor or myself if you are going to be away or moving to a new location. Your newsletter is returned to us and the post office charges us 42 cents for each newsletter. We average 6-10 per month. However, you can also notify the editor and receive the newsletter on line.

Do you have any suggestions for a speaker? If so let anyone on the board know who you would suggest. Not only that we would appreciate if someone would volunteer to chair the Program Committee. It only takes a couple of hours each month. Some of our volunteers are wearing more than 2 hats, please step up and help out the weary.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

April Meeting Recap

The meeting was convened by President Al Burge at 12 noon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was the Chapter's first meeting at the Paradise Restaurant in Sequim, WA. 37 members attended.

Speaker: Ed Chadd, Streamkeepers of Clallam County, spoke about the purpose and activities of the organization. He was accompanied by volunteers Janet Oja and Sam Fox. The organization is part of Clallam County Community Development. In 1999 they began monitoring and analyzing data on Olympic Peninsula stream health. This includes fish and wildlife observations, noxious weeds, stream flows, etc. Members were urged to volunteer in stream monitoring and watershed stewardship activities. Contact Streamkeepers at 223 E. 4th Street, Suite 5 or email streamkeepers@co.clallam.wa.us.

Business Meeting: President Al thanked members for such a great turnout. He invited them to attend the Executive Board meetings held monthly at 1:00 p.m., 1st Monday each month at the Sequim Library.

Lois introduced new member Donna Hine and potential member Fran Andrews.

Treasurer Mary reported \$5675.03 available in current year, with outstanding bills totaling \$550. \$62 was collected today for Alzheimer's fund.

Legislation: Bill Holman reported lots of activity on Premium Conversion but very little on Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Program.

Sunshine: Marie Wall was recognized for her outstanding 30 years in this roll. Members, please donate cards, especially Get Well and Sympathy.

Editor Sara Boore urged members to let her know if they want their Newsletters sent via email. For members receiving theirs by US Mail, notify her if you will be out of town and your mail is on hold.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Streamkeepers update:

Streamkeepers of Clallam County has recently received a \$16,900 grant from the WDFW-ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program to help support the volunteer program from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. One factor in the success of the application was the sophisticated, multifaceted effort of the Streamkeepers volunteers, ranging from field sampling, data entry/checking, statistical analysis and public outreach, generating a projected value of \$100,000 during the grant period.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY