

# NARFE

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



## NARFE District IV Website

[www.narfewadist4.org](http://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:**

### 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)

## June Chapter Program

**June 24, 2008, 11:30 A.M.**

**Paradise Restaurant**

**703 North Sequim Avenue**

**(just north of Sequim High School)**

**Sequim, WA**

The NARFE Chapter 1006 June Speaker will be Linda Rotmark. Linda is the Executive Director of Clallam Networks Economic Development Council.

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

Judy Park was the Keynote Speaker at the Washington State Federation of Chapters annual meeting in Walla Walla in May. She retired from NARFE on May 31, 2008. The Washington Post, in their June 10, 2008 issue provided this tribute:

In the early 1980's, when Congress moved to bring federal employees into Social Security, the outlook for the civil service pension plan was uncertain. But Judy Park had a plan.

Park was the legislative director for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), and, with the help of colleagues and a consulting firm, she spent two years building consensus among unions and employee associations on how to revamp federal retirement.

The effort helped develop the framework for what became the Federal Employees Retirement System, which provides today's retirees with Social Security benefits, a modest annuity and the opportunity to invest in the Thrift Savings Plan, a 401(k)-type program. NARFE's plan also preserved the fiscal stability of the old Civil Service Retirement System, a traditional pension program, for workers who wanted to stay with it.

Park retired from NARFE at the end of May, after nearly 40 years with the association. She joined the group in 1968, only four years out of college, and became NARFE's first legislative director in 1976,

*(President's Corner continued on back page)*

*(President's Corner, continued)*

when the group decided it needed a legislative and lobbying department.

"It really hasn't been like being in the same job all the time, because the job, the organization and the Congress have changed so much," she said in an interview.

"It has been a lot of fun. I have had great experiences and lots of opportunities to help see changes come about. I have met and worked with great people."

When Park joined NARFE, it had about 130,000 members. The membership has tripled since then, and the association, founded in 1921, keeps watch over issues that are important to employees and retirees, such as retirement benefits, cost of living adjustments and health care.

When it became clear that Congress was going to revamp federal retirement, NARFE also worked to ensure some degree of equity among employees, so that they would mostly contribute the same percentage of their pay toward retirement, regardless of whether they were in the Civil Service Retirement System or the newer Federal Employees Retirement System, Park said.

While at NARFE, Park pushed for broader eligibility rules for survivor benefits, fought to have the government pay a higher share of health insurance premiums for employees and won a regulatory change so that federal retirees, along with employees, could participate in the "open season" and change their medical coverage as their health needs evolved.

"The most important thing for today's federal workers and federal retirees to do is recognize that they have got to involve themselves in the next several years to protect the benefits they now have," Park said.

"In the global economy, an increasing number of companies are cutting or eliminating retirement and health benefits to save money and become more competitive," she said. "These fiscal realities are sifting down and when it hits the public sector it will hit the federal government first," she predicted.

"If that happens," Park added, "then we're going to see benefits begin to disappear, I'm afraid."

Although she has made a career working on issues and legislation important to federal employees and retirees, Park worked only two years for Uncle Sam, at the old Civil Service Commission, and does not receive the retirement and health care benefits she fought to create and preserve.

She recently had to purchase supplement coverage for her Medicare benefit, and the search for the insurance "drove me crazy," she said laughing. "I can't imagine what it is like for those poor souls who are confused by the system, because I felt clueless.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

## Membership

Welcome to Dee Renee Ericks from the Olympic National Park, Henry Bevin from Carlsborg, Mary Kubas-Meyer of Sequim and Richard Boyd of Port Hadlock.

Those whose dues were due April 2008 are James Bennett, Harry Morris and Rich Olson.

If you would like your newsletter via e-mail, please contact the Newsletter Editor, Sara Boore. Her address is [issboore@yahoo.com](mailto:issboore@yahoo.com) and she will see that you are on the e-mail mailing.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

## May Meeting Recap

The meeting was convened by President Al Burge at 12 noon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. All future meetings will be held at the Paradise Restaurant in Sequim, WA, until further notice.

Speaker: Chuck Preble, President, Olympic Discovery Trail. Mr. Preble gave a history of the organization and its efforts and future plans for the Trail. Eventually, it will run from Puget Sound to the Pacific Coast, approximately 130 miles. It is designed and utilized by bikers, hikers, equestrians, and runners. Volunteers have had a big part in building the Trail. Membership in the organization is encouraged.

Business Meeting: District IV Vice President Bill Powers swore in Kay Kozminski as Chapter Secretary. He reported National Office is considering doing away with the honorary member program. Response was non-supportive. He believes the organization's next big fight on Capitol Hill will involve retaining the current health benefits program. OPM is exploring a new separate plan for Medicare eligible participants.

**Membership:** Lois reported current membership at 358. If you need name tags, let her know.

**Telephone:** Mary needs help badly and asked for volunteer callers. Please contact her directly if you have a few minutes each month to donate.

**Sunshine:** Help Marie by donating greeting cards, especially get well and sympathy.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**Correction to last months minutes:** Al invited members to the Executive Board meetings which are held on the 1st (not 4th, as I reported) Monday each month at the Sequim Library.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY