

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • November 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: Vacant

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: Kathryn Spilker

Telephone: Pamela Godsey

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)

November Chapter Program

November 25, 2008, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

(just north of Sequim High School)

Sequim, WA

For our November Meeting topic will cover Open Season changes to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan.

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

No Meeting in December

Just a reminder - There will be no newsletter or meeting in December.

President's Corner

Our next meeting will have representatives from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and KPS to provide overviews of the 2009 FEHBP Open Seasons programs. It is unknown whether any additional health program representatives will be at the meeting. Also, the meeting will vote on the next year's chapter officers. Installation of the officers will be after the vote.

I thank all the 2008 officers and board members for their support this past year. Also, a special thanks goes to the members who worked on the committees. Without their help, the chapter would not have had such a successful year.

At our November meeting, we donate to the Salvation Army for their children's Holi-

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President's Corner, Continued

day gifts. We have always provided good support for this program. If you are donating by check, make the check out to "The Salvation Army" and put "NARFE" on the memo line. If you cannot come to the meeting, please consider donating to this worthwhile program.

The 2009 elected officers will hold a short meeting at the close of the chapter meeting.

See you all at the meeting!

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Owen

I am sad to report that Elizabeth Owen has passed away, November 6th. She was our Alzheimer's Chairperson for many years.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Contact Your Legislators

Someone spoke to one of our members about the National NARFE Convention in Louisville last month. Dan Adcock, NARFE Legislative Director, warned the group of a "perfect storm" gathering which threatens federal retirement benefits. Warning signs include the \$400 billion federal deficit, the credit crisis and bank bailouts, the expense of waging two wars, the decline of retirement and health benefits in the private sector, the retirement of the baby boomer generation, and a looming recession which would depress tax revenue and increase the deficit.

Contact your legislators and let them know of your concerns about maintaining our retirement benefits.

—PAMELA GODSEY, TELEPHONE CHAIR

Keep watching

Employees Association (NARFE), said today that although her association is pleased with the higher-than-normal, cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) that will augment civil service annuities, as well as Social Security benefits, she is concerned that the recent surge in inflation affecting food prices, utility bills and health insurance premiums will outstrip the COLA's effect on federal retirees' income security.

The COLA is an inflation-based adjustment to the earned retirement benefits of federal workers. The retirement COLA becomes effective December 1 and is reflected in January 2009 annuity payments. Federal retiree's COLAs should in no way be confused with, or compared to, the locality-based pay raise set each year for active federal employees. This year's 5.8 percent COLA will result in Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees and survivors receiving a 5.8 percent adjustment to their annuities. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees over the age of 62, as well as FERS disabled retirees, FERS special category employees and FERS survivors, will receive a 4.8 percent COLA reflected in their FERS defined benefit annuity and a 5.8 percent adjustment to their Social Security benefit.

In addition, NARFE remains troubled that the unanticipated cost of the COLA could cause added scrutiny to be applied to the federal retirement system during next year's budgetary process. "Federal retirees should not have to worry that today's COLA could come at the detriment of their future retirement income," Baptiste said. "NARFE, along with federal employees, retirees, and survivors, will be watching the next president and upcoming Congress closely to ensure they honor promises made to those who have, and continue, to serve our country."

—WWW.NARFE.ORG