

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • February 2009



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Al Burge

Vice President: Robert Ackerman

Secretary: Kay Kozminski

Treasurer: Robert Jewell

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: Vacant

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)

February Chapter Program

February 24, 2009, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

(just north of Sequim High School)

Sequim, WA

The speaker for our February meeting will be Robert Jewell, Supervisory Special Agent, U. S. Treasury Dept. Criminal Investigation, IRS. Please attend this meeting and welcome Robert who is our newly installed Treasurer for our chapter.

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

Active Employees

FERS employees who have left the government for private sector jobs and are considering returning to government service face a dilemma. Under current law, many lose credit for their previous years of service and have to start over when calculating their annuity. James Moran (D - VA) and Frank Wolf (R - VA) have introduced a bill that ensures these employees are not penalized for reentering government service after working in the private, non profit or academic sector.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

President's Corner

Most of this year's officers were sworn in at the January meeting. The turnout for the meeting was slightly higher than the average of last year. Our round table discussions on how we hold meetings and what speakers would be of interest to the group went quit well. Unfortunately, the members not at the meeting did not get a vote. If you would like an input to this, or any issue of concern, please give me a call.

The March meeting date and location will change. Bill Powers, the Washington Federation of Chapters District IV Vice President will lead the annual workshop from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on March 31 at the Sequim Elks Lodge, 143 Port Williams Road. Bill Powers has agreed to have our meeting at the Workshop. Cost, including lunch at noon, will be \$12.50. We will have a speaker as always. If you can come to the full workshop, that would be great. If you can't come to the full workshop, please consider coming to the lunch meeting.

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The Washington State Federation of Chapters meeting will be in Wenatchee this year on May 14 and 15. Our Chapter has 14 votes and the chapter will pay the \$20.00 fee to sign up for this annual event. This is the 50th year of the Washington Federation of Chapters. Please consider going to this worthwhile convention.

See you at the meeting.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

NARFE Scores Legislative Win For Federal Retirees in Stimulus Package

Margaret L. Baptiste, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), announced successful achievement of a legislative fix that ensures that all federal retirees--like other seniors--will be offered stimulus relief.

“Thanks to the tireless efforts of Senator John Kerry (D-MA) as well as Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and other federal-friendly lawmakers, no federal retirees were excluded. These lawmakers went to the mat for federal retirees, and fought an uphill policy and timing battle to include these individuals at each step of the process,” affirmed Baptiste. As originally drafted, the Senate stimulus bill provided a one-time cash payment to Social Security, Veterans, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Railroad Retirement recipients that inadvertently excluded non-Social Security public sector retirees --including many Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants, as well as certain state and local government retirees. NARFE’s efforts, which included reaching out to legislators on Capitol Hill and to groups representing state and local government employees and retirees, secured language being incorporated into the final bill to accommodate these individuals.

Under the auspices of the stimulus package, tax relief via reduced payroll tax withholding will be provided to wage-earners under the ‘Make Work Pay’ provisions. Social Security, Veterans, SSI or Railroad Retirement beneficiaries, who are not otherwise wage-earners, will see a one-time \$250 increase in these payments. Federal retirees who are not eligible for any of these payments will be eligible to take a newly-created \$250 per person refundable tax credit. At this time, prior to the stimulus package’s enactment into law, few details are available. NARFE will keep its members informed on all coming tax guidance.

“As federal retirees worked and contributed just like other Social Security retirees, NARFE is pleased that this tax credit was created and then successfully attached to the stimulus legislation,” asserted President Baptiste. “NARFE applauds Congress for extending a tax stimulus to our nation’s seniors so that retirees can join other taxpayers in bolstering our economy at a critical time.”

—NARFE HOTLINE

Membership

We had a productive and interesting January meeting with 33 attendees. We had three prospective members attend and one joined our chapter; Robert C. Wilson of Port Angeles. We also had one Current Federal Employee join us, Doug Kozmenski.

Our Service Officer, Ralph Angulo continues to improve and hopefully he will be attending our February meeting.

Now for the membership report: Good news first, our new members are Warren Emmons and Robert Wilson both of Port Angeles. Happy to report that Pat Perrotta of Yonkers, New York (FAA) and John Richmond of Forks reinstated their memberships. Second dues notices (dues that were due December 2008) were sent to Michael O’Connor of Bonney Lake, Faith Redding of Algona, Russell Underwood and Marvin Yates of Port Angeles. If you have paid and I have not been notified, my apologies. Dropped due to non payment of dues is Shirley Myers of Port Townsend.

Retirees, that find it difficult to remember when their dues are due should take advantage of dues withholding. You are charged \$31.60 per year and that includes the chapter dues of \$7.00. If your are interested, give me a call and I will send you the form.

I spent a few hours with Pamela Godsey going over the telephone calling list and we think we have resolved some issues. But she needs more volunteers to help with calling, won’t you step up and help her out?

Be sure to come to the February meeting and don’t forget the District Workshop that our Chapter is hosting at the Sequim Elks March 31st. (Yes, it is the 5th Tuesday, the Elks Lodge could not accommodate us on the 4th Tuesday) Our District VP, Bill Powers will be in charge of the activities and I’m sure it will be beneficial to everyone.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Future Programs

Our President ask for volunteers to help out with obtaining speakers. Tom Beckman and I will see what we can come up with. Since March is our Work Shop at the Sequim Elks Lodge; Tom is working on the April program and has a lady from Key Bank coming to speak. Pamela Godsey will attempt to take care of the May program. I’m stuck with June. I have a dynamic young girl coming to speak to our group about pigs! You will be amazed at the price of her pigs. We hope to have a ukulele band coming in late summer, but some of the members are south for the winter. More details later.

Now I know some of you are willing to give us a hand. Let us know at the next meeting and you can pick your favorite month to obtain a speaker.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR