

NARFE

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



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Al Burge

Vice President: Vacant

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: Mary Balian

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

Mike English - (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)

April Chapter Program

April 28, 2009, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

(just north of Sequim High School)

Sequim, WA

Our speakers for the April 28 meeting are from KeyBank. They are Lanee Langdon, Manager of the Sequim Branch of KeyBank; and John Winslow, Financial Advisor.

Topics will include what's going on in the banking world and opportunities for financial growth.

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

There was a good turnout for the workshop and the Elks did a good job for setting up the room and we had a good lunch. Highlights were talks from Judith Morris of Representative Norm Dicks' office and Lanny Ross NARFE Region IX Vice President. Judith went over our legislative priorities and commented on whether they had a chance of passage this year. Lanny Ross discussed the upcoming referendum on single NARFE dues. More information will be provided as the referendum date approaches. The referendum on dues would change from a National Dues plus Chapter Dues structure to a National Dues only structure. This would simplify recruiting and whether members would have to belong to a chapter.

Bill Powers was reelected Washington State Federation of Chapters District IV Vice President for the period of July 09 through June 10.

The chapter position of Vice President is now vacant. Bob Ackerman has taken a full time job for the next two years.

It is great regret that I have lost a friend and NARFE member. Val Cameron died on March 31, 2009. Val was my mentor when I first became involved with the chapter. He set the standard for being a active member of many organizations in the area. I and the Chapter have lost a good man.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership

Our Workshop was well attended, We had 12 members of the Bremerton Chapter #181, Poulsbo Chapter #06 with 6 members, Port Orchard Chapter #02 with 2 members and our Chapter #1006 with 22 attending. The meeting concluded with a speech from our Nation VP, Lanny Ross.

We welcome our new members, Mike Bare retired from FAA, Cheri Barnett, USPS, Paul Gagnon from the Air Force and Robert Wilson, FAA. Katherine Plese from Issaquah has reinstated her membership. Second dues notice has been sent to Kendell Olin and those dropped for non-renewal are Claire Burnham, Virginia Nedelka, Doug Bedinger, Art Greenberg, Levi McFarland, Michael O'Connor, Judy Pyshere and Faith Redding.

We're sad to report the death of Val Cameron on March 31st. Val was our Legislative Chairperson for many years and those of you that lived in Clallam County in years past, Val was your County Commission. Val was retired from SBA. He was 93 years old.

We're still waiting on a volunteer to help out with Programs. Our meetings can only become more interesting if you step forward and help out.

Name tags are available for \$7.00. Let me know and I'll have one made for you.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments

NARFE is the only association dedicated to safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's retired federal employees. A team of government relations professionals in Washington tracks congressional action and agency proposals that affect your federal retirement benefits. NARFE's Legislative Department works simultaneously to preserve and enhance civil service annuity and health care benefits.

Some of NARFE's legislative accomplishments include:

- Stopping reductions in federal civilian retirement benefits;
- Continuing to fend off cuts to the Medicare and Social Security programs;
- Protecting annual cost-of-living adjustments;
- Bringing about Federal Long Term Care Insurance for active and retired federal employees; and
- Developing the framework for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

NARFE Commends U.S. House for Defeating Amendment Which Would Have Cut Federal Retirement and Health Benefits by \$10 Billion

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste praised the U.S. House of Representatives for defeating Rep. Paul Ryan's, R-WI, amendment to the FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION (H. Con. Res. 85) which would have cut-back entitlement programs, like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, by \$1.38 trillion over ten years, and would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion over ten years in federal civil service retirement and health benefits. The Wisconsin lawmaker's substitute amendment was defeated on April 2 by a margin of 137 to 293: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll191.xml>

In an April 1 letter sent to all 435 members of the House (see attached), President Baptiste urged lawmakers to oppose the Ryan amendment because it would have compelled the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to consider proposals such as cutting or canceling federal annuity cost of living adjustments (COLAs), basing future retiree annuities on the highest five years of salary, shifting a growing share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium costs to workers and retirees and/or requiring workers to double their Thrift Savings Plan contribution to receive the full government share.

"Federal employees, retirees and their survivors need to know that their Representatives will be vigilant in protecting the compensation and benefits of individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service, often at significant financial sacrifice," she wrote

The budget resolutions approved by the House and Senate on Thursday do not instruct the civil service authorizing committees to reduce the retirement and health benefits earned by federal workers and annuitants. In fact, unlike the pay disparity in the President's budget, the House-passed measure included language supporting pay parity between military and federal civilian employees.

"While military personnel deserve every cent of their salary – and then some – failing to provide the same pay raise to federal workers, many of whom work side-by-side with their uniformed colleagues, diminishes their contributions and sacrifices on behalf of our nation," Baptiste said. "Indeed, the federal government needs to offer such equity if we are to attract the talented and skilled individuals necessary to take on the challenges of recovering from an unparalleled economic upheaval, fighting two wars and defending the homeland."