

# NARFE

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



### NARFE District IV Website

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

### July Chapter Program

**July 28, 2009, 11:30 A.M.**

**Paradise Restaurant**

**703 North Sequim Avenue**

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

**Sequim, WA**

We are pleased to have two speakers of our July meeting. The first is Patty McManus who is an advocate for eating food produced locally in Clallam County. The second is Penny Lujan, who is a local organic farmer, who will talk about her farm and her business of delivering delicious food to Sequim residents.

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

It may be a little early to think about the annual chapter health fair, but some information has been made available. On November 24, representatives of the FEHBP major health insurance companies will be in the area. They will be at the National Park offices from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, at the chapter meeting from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM and at the Port Angeles Federal Building from 2:00 PM to 3 PM. OPM is in negotiations at the present time, but with little likelihood of any COLA this year and FEHBP increases of up to 14 percent, it will up to each of us to really look over the plans.

My thanks to Pamela Godsey for getting speakers for the July meeting. A special thank you to Lois Shaw for getting a speaker for the June meeting on one day notice. Both of these Chapter members are holding down other committee chair positions. We need more members to step up and volunteer. It does not take much time for most positions. The officers and committee chairs of the chapter could use some respite.

See you at the meeting.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

### Membership

Welcome to our new member, Roger Drake of Port Angeles. Our reinstatements for this month are, Doug Bedinger, Eileen Cooney & Michael O'Connor. Those that have dropped their memberships are, Leroy Carruth, Jack West & Robert McDaniel.

*Membership continued on back*

*Membership, continued*

If you have paid your dues prior & I have not received the report - sorry.

And Georgia Reynolds has been sent her second renewal notice.

After you finish reading your monthly NARFE magazine, give it to another retired or active employee. Also, take a copy to your doctor's office. With the new retirees moving into our area, many retired federal persons have never heard of NARFE and what a great idea to introduce them to NARFE.

Don't forget the Health Fair at the Paradise Restaurant November 24th. Someone from our chapter will also be at the Federal Building on that date for those that cannot make it to the chapter meeting.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR

## **NARFE Deplores plan to Cut Earned Federal Civilian Retirement Annuities By \$2.535 Billion Over Five Years**

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste denounced proposals made by House Republican leaders to reduce the retirement annuities of federal workers and require them to work longer to receive their full earned annuity.

The proposals, set forth in a policy agenda released on June 4 by Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), recommend that the federal civilian annuity calculation be based on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "the average new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree would receive about \$1,250 less in 2008 and \$6,530 less over five years than under current law."

In addition, the Boehner/Cantor paper recommends that federal civilian employees not be afforded their earned annuity until they reach age 62, under any circumstance. Currently, employees can retire at age 55 if they have 30 or more years of service or at age 60 if they have 20 or more years of service. Federal public safety employees are required to retire by age 57, and air traffic controllers must retire by age 56.

"Not only would these proposals dishonor the government's obligations to its workers, but it also makes public service a much harder sell to the highly talented and skilled individuals needed to take on the challenges of recovering from an unparalleled economic upheaval, fighting two wars and defending the homeland," Baptiste said. "The federal government should serve as a model to other employers and should not be a part of the mindless race to the bottom, which has contributed to the growing number of employees without adequate retirement savings or health insurance."

Baptiste concluded, "Federal workers and annuitants have dedicated their careers and continue to give so much for our nation and our ideals. NARFE urges the Congress not to demean their public service by reducing the retirement and health benefits that are rightfully theirs."

—WWW.NARFE.ORG

## **NARFE Praises President for Signing into Law Legislation Which Makes Improvements in Federal Thrift Savings Plan**

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste commended President Obama today for signing into law H.R. 1256, a Tobacco Regulatory Bill, which contained certain improvements to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). TSP is the tax-deferred retirement savings program created by Congress for federal employees in 1986 and is similar to "401(k)" plans offered to private-sector employees.

"The TSP is the best retirement savings program in the country because the 4 million federal workers and military personnel who participate in the program create a large economy of scale which achieves administrative savings unachievable by other employer-sponsored defined contribution plans," Baptiste said. "The improvements in the program that became law today will help federal workers enhance their retirement planning."

One change provides that newly-hired federal employees will be automatically enrolled in the TSP and will be eligible to receive an immediate matching contribution from their employing agency. "This initiative will increase the percentage of federal employees who make use of the TSP to ensure they are better prepared for their retirement," she said.

In addition, the new law gives the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), the independent federal agency and fiduciary that administers the TSP, the authority to add a "Roth" option to the plan that would allow participants to make after-tax contributions to TSP accounts and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement. "Federal employees would want this feature so that they could have the same options available to private sector workers in some 401 (k) plans," Baptiste remarked.

Under current law, a spouse married to a TSP participant who passed away is required to either transfer the inherited account to an individual retirement account (IRA) or take the benefit as cash withdrawal, subject to federal income taxes. The new law would allow the spouse who inherited the account to retain it, under the same rules as any other TSP participant. "A growing number of surviving spouses have this right in private 401(k)s and widows and widowers of TSP participants ought to be treated no differently," she added.

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