

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • October 2010



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Al Burge

Vice President: Bruce Halstead

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: 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)

October Chapter Program

Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

(just north of Sequim High School)

Sequim, WA

Our October speaker will be Marjorie Stewart from Senior Information and Assistance.

Lunch is at 11:30 A.M. and the speaker will be at 12:00.

You do not have to have lunch to attend the meeting.

President's Corner

The October chapter meeting is the annual business meeting. We will be electing the officers to lead the chapter during 2011. The following members have been nominated: Bud Shaw, President; Bruce Halstead, Vice President; Kay Kozminski, Secretary; Robert Jewell, Treasurer; William Holman, Lois Shaw, and Ralph Angulo, Board Members. We will also be discussing Chapter dues and By Law changes. Make a point to attend the meeting.

The Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) premiums for 2011 have been released by the Office of Personnel Management. The average increase is 7.2%. Representatives from the National FEHBP plans will be at the November meeting.

There will be no COLA for 2011 as the is still below the third quarter of 2008.

NARFE has just released a 90th Anniversary Book. It costs \$10.00 provides a good review of what NARFE has accomplished over the years for retirees and employees. I have a copy and will bring it to the meeting for your review.

I have had the privilege of being the chapter president over the last three years and representing the chapter at state federation and national meetings. The names you see on the chapter letter each month are the ones who make the chapter run. If you do not wish to run for office, try to help the committee chairs by volunteering for a month or two next year.

Last I want to commend all who maintained their memberships in NARFE. I will miss the position of Chapter President but the Chapter will be in very good hands.

See you at the meeting.

—AL BURGE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership News for October

First, I want to grumble a bit. Today Pamela Godsey (your telephone chair lady) & I spent approximately 2 hours going over the calling list; who to call and not to call. We have added most all of Sequim & Carlsborg on the list to call. Those in the Port Angeles area some were deleted and some new ones added. We don't have any callers for the Port Townsend area! We have 321 members and Pamela has only 4 callers. There isn't any way that 4 callers can get to everyone on the list; therefore you probably don't get a call. Would you volunteer to help out and call a minimum of 5-7 members - if enough of you volunteer we can do a much better job. AMEN

Thanks to Al Dawson for reinstating his membership. Thanks to Carol Thomasson for taking out dues withholding. Three members have been dropped for non payment of dues; they are Richard Boyd, James Crain & Burt Karapostoles. Barbara O'Connor is a prospective member. We have lost 2 of our good helpers this past month, Beatrice Knudsen and Jean Frost. Our sympathy to their families.

If you are going south for the winter don't forget to let us know. You can call the National Office @ 1-800-456-8410 or call me @ 452-6374 and we'll pull your address for the winter months. Each newsletter that is returned we must pay 44 cents and that soon adds up to many dollars each year.

At the 2010 National Convention delegates approved a dues increase. The new dues structure is:

One year National dues - \$40.00; Two years National dues - \$72.00; Three years National dues - \$102.00. That is for your National dues only. Our Chapter dues are \$7.00/year.

Members who are on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction on National Dues. Those annual dues will be \$34.00 plus our \$7.00 chapter dues of record. Implementation target date for these increases is January 1, 2011. Existing Life Members - No impact - they have paid. New Life Members - New actuarial rates have been established and the Life Membership Application will be in the December NARFE magazine. (The chapter will receive applications as soon as the supplies are sent out)

Annually renewing. The first dues renewal notice with the new dues structure will go out January, 2011. That represents the members whose renewal date is March, 2011. Those members with expiration dates in January and February of 2011 will renew under the old dues structure.

Dues Withholding. The increase will start with those members with an anniversary date of March, 2011.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

September Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by President Al Burge, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Twenty-four members attended including Bill Powers, District IV Vice President. The program consisted of a report by President Al, who represented our Chapter at the 31st National Convention, Grand Rapids MI, August 29-September 2. NARFE Headquarters is "going green." Chapters will no longer receive checks—only direct deposits; hard copies of reports will not be sent; newsletters now have to have bar codes. The pros and cons of increased membership dues was a primary subject. Delegates solidly backed a resolution to increase national dues. The new dues structure is \$40 for one year, \$72 for 2 years, and \$102 for three years. Those on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction; their annual dues will be \$34. Seven dollars will be added for Chapter dues.

Al shared a recorded message from Legislative Director Dan Adcock. Following are brief highlights:

- He especially thanked outgoing National President Margaret Baptiste for serving as an excellent spokesperson at Congressional hearings.
- NARFE had a good year, putting money in our pockets and protecting our benefits. Recently, NARFE helped push back four attempts to deny federal workers a 1.4 percent salary increase for 2011. (A full listing of accomplishments is available from the Chapter President or Secretary.)
- He warned the future could involve slashing of Federal salary, retirement and health benefits by \$50 billion. The economic crisis is translating into public anger over federal spending, which will make it "very difficult" to obtain relief from an increase in Medicare premiums. NARFE must be ready for recommendations from the so-called Debt Commission or Congress for very large cuts in Federal spending.
- He gave delegates a "to-do" list: (1) Energize and educate the rank-and-file chapter member; (2) Get to know and educate new and returning lawmakers; and (3) Recruit and retain members.

Following a lively discussion regarding our political climate and future, Past President Ray Weinmann urged members to: (1) Stay tuned in and respond to elected representatives; (2) Contribute to PAC; and (3) Recruit members. Each current member needs to be a recruiter.

Future Speakers: October—Marjorie Stewart from Clallam County Senior Assistance. November—FEHB Open Season Health Information Fair. December—no meeting. January 2011—Tom Beckman is making arrangements for a speaker who will discuss what is happening in the banking/financial world. Send your suggested questions and discussion items to Mr. Beckman at 683-8437 or tjbeckman@msn.com.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, SECRETARY