

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • April 2011



President's Corner

A proposal in the Presidents Fiscal Commission's final report proposes to create a "Federal Workforce Entitlement Task Force" and make recommendations to Congress to cut federal civilian and military retirement benefits by \$70 billion over 10 years.

Even more disturbing is the report's plan to require our public servants to pay an increasingly higher share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums and use the so-called "Chained" Consumer Price Index (C-CPI-U) to set cost-of-living adjustments.

Both proposals would serve to further erode the benefits public servants have earned doing the nation's work

A House of Representatives budget plan freezes federal pay through 2015

The budget outline unveiled Tuesday Apr. 5 by some House members that they seek to freeze federal salary schedules through 2015, reduces the federal workforce by 10 percent, and requires employees to pay more toward their retirement benefits i.e.; FEHBP.

The document, in another place is writing a federal budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2011. It further seeks to reduce spending on non-security agencies to the levels of 2008. This is the action we need to watch very carefully since our earned benefits could be under the axe.

While still another proposed House action would do away with all retirement systems that currently exist for new hires. As you can see from the extreme proposals being made, we need to remain vigilant so that we may make our concerns known to our elected officials when it appears our earned benefits might be affected.

Parking at the restaurant was very good at our last meeting and it should be the same for our April meeting. The card players will not be there which will provide good parking, and hopefully the drug pushers will still be in jail and not chasing one another through the parking lot.

Our Service Officer will be on a cruise to Alaska May 13 through 21, none of Chapter 1006 members will be permitted to pass away during

April Chapter Program

Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 11:30 A.M.
Paradise Restaurant
703 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA

The speaker for the April 2011 meeting will be Kent Myers, city manager for Port Angeles.

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.

that time. Ralph advises phone calls to Cruise Vessels would be quite expense to your heirs. Therefore no suicides or other deaths will be tolerated during Ralph's absence.

Another. "Do you think it is fair" item - One of our members is now in a nursing home in Sequim. He was put in the home by the hospital in Port Angeles. He has a fairly comfortable room, but the home appears to be critically short of help. Do you think it is fair when the nursing homes continues to accept patients when they are so short on help? Do you think it is fair when our hospital sends patients to a facility that is critically short on staffing? The home has approximately 114 beds and appears to be near max capacity. Our member's wife has found it necessary to be with him every day in order to monitor his care, she developed a chart showing what was needed to be done for him covering several hours when she was absent. When she returned she found that none of the items had been checked off as having been done. She has noted that many patients do not have anyone that visits them or monitors their care. Where help shortages exist do you think it is fair when no one checks on our senior citizens. A recent TV survey showed that on the average in the USA 85% of the nursing home patients do not have any visitors calling on them or looking out for their welfare

—BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

March Meeting Recap

Our Chapter President, Bud Shaw, opened the meeting and introduced our speaker, Chapter Service Officer Ralph Angulo (a retired IRS attorney) to discuss preparation of the new March 2010 revision of Form F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events". The form is a definite improvement, and can be downloaded, saved, and used as a template on line, easily Updated periodically. Ralph led us through the form, adding valuable information and humorous anecdotes, answering questions and accepting comments as we progressed, page by page through the form. He said we should always have an attorney, a will, a durable power of attorney, and a durable power of attorney for health care. He further advised that two copies be made, and kept in separate locations, one in the home (not in a home safe), and one outside the home (e.g., family attorney, safe deposit box, etc.), with specific addresses noted.

He advised paying particular attention to Page 17 regarding Annuitant's Death and Survivors' Benefits. In addition to the agencies listed to be notified of an annuitant's death, he mentioned the need to notify all companies with whom the deceased had accounts. (credit cards, charge accounts, etc.).

President's supplement:

A discussion was held regarding the Federation Convention, we have a total of four delegates that will be attending the convention. A motion was made to have the Chapter pay the Convention Registration Fee and to provide each delegate with a \$100 stipend to help offset their convention attendance costs. The Membership vote was unanimous. We need to continue encouraging Chapter member's attendance at Federation Conventions, the next convention will be held in Vancouver, WA.

The Chapter 1006 Executive Board met at the Sequim library April 4, 2011 everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and provide constructive commentary.

—MARILYN FALLS, ACTING SECRETARY,
BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Meet our Chapter Secretary

I have been asked to share with you information about my career, my life and career. Since my entire career was with the Federal Government, I suppose I could be referred to as a bureaucrat but I prefer the title "career civil servant". After graduating from high school in Montrose, Colorado, my father sent me off to Denver to Central Business College. When I realized I was going to have to get a job, I took the "Federal Government Civil Service Test." My first job was Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, for the Regional Office, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in Downtown Denver. How thrilled I was to be starting out making \$3,760 a year!

I climbed the proverbial ladder for 20 years with various secretarial and administrative jobs in the Denver area, including: Secretary to the DHEW Regional Director, Administrative Officer for the National Civil Rights Training Institute, and Administrative Officer for the Mine Safety and Health Agency, Department of Labor. I didn't take many risks. But I did take advantage of training and travel opportunities at every opportunity. My first trip to Washington, D.C. I'll never forget. The hippies and the farmers were protesting on Capitol Hill. The early 70's were an interesting time to be working in the agency responsible for enforcing the very controversial aspects of the Civil Rights Act. My last job before retiring was Administrative Officer at Olympic National Park, which followed several years as Personnel Officer for the Park.

I was born on Whidbey Island, but we left Washington when I was a very small child. However, when Doug and I moved to the Olympic Peninsula in 1980, I felt as though I was coming home. In spite of the Hood Canal Bridge being wiped out and the Mount St. Helen eruption, we knew this was where we wanted to be. I have two wonderful children, Brenda (married to a Coast Guardsman) and living in Kodiak, Alaska; and Troy (married with three terrific kids). They are a very busy family with a farm, a trucking business, and a law office in Eastern Colorado.

I have a great husband, Doug, who is also a NARFE member and who recently retired on 1/1/11. He gave me a couple of weeks to get ready to go South in our motor home, which we did and where he still is. Hopefully, we'll get back in time for the Washington State Federation Convention in Spokane on May 15-17.

It is my pleasure to serve as your Chapter Secretary.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY

Membership News for April

A big welcome to Catherine (Cat) Hoffman for reinstating her membership.

I have sent second renewal notices to the following: Joseph Chiarella, Ruby Newton, Stephen Compton,

Elodye Teefy, Mel Kossen and Robert Wilson. Your dues were due March 1, 2011. The following were dropped for non-payment of dues that were due, December 1, 2010. Lenea Eastman, Donna Halsaver, Sue McGill, Arthur Sloane, and Janice Yates.

For the retiree; you can take advantage of Dues Withholding, You receive a 15% reduction on the National Dues. Your annual dues will be \$34.00 plus our chapter dues of \$7.00. If you are interested, give me a call for more information or you can call Membership Records at 1-800-456-8410.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Bud Shaw

Vice President: Robert Ackerman

Secretary: Kay Kozminski

Treasurer: Robert Jewell

Board Member: Ralph Angulo

Board Member: William Holman

Board Member: Lois Shaw

Past President: Al Burge

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: Vacant

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

Christina Reeves - (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)