

NARFE

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



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:

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)

June Chapter Program

Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 11:30 A.M.
Paradise Restaurant
703 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA

The speaker for the June meeting will be Chief Bill Dickinson, City of Sequim Police.

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

NARFE PAC FUNDS

Your contribution to the subject fund is more important today than it ever has been. The national media is constantly telling the public that there are too many federal employees and they are over paid and their benefits exceed those of other employees by wide margins. One of their latest ploys is that many government employees are paid more than the State Governor in the state where they work.

Therefore it is critical this year that we have sufficient PAC funds available so that we can support those candidates that understand the need for well-paid and trained government employees. The employees need to be provided benefits as currently paid.

During the recent NARFE state convention it was revealed that only five members of Chapter 1006 had contributed to the PAC fund. Surely we have more members that are knowledgeable on the current environment regarding Federal Employees and their earned benefits. We will be circulating a form where members attending our next meeting can sign and contribute to the Chapter PAC fund. Those of you not attending and wanting to contribute can do so by sending a check to any of our Officers, made out to "NARFE PAC FUND". Federal Laws prohibit commingling other NARFE funds and PAC fund money.

Lets all put our shoulder to the wheel and help support politicians that support the preservation of our earned benefits.

IS IT FAIR

Well here we go with "is it fair" again. I sometime think our politicians in Washington that so generously hand out our tax money has nothing but concrete between their ears. Recently money was given to several countries to help them fight various diseases, improve humane treatment, ECT. The same countries recently purchased US securities, sold by the U.S. Treasury to raise money to keep our government functioning. This means some foreign countries buy our securities and we turn around and give the money derived back to them to use in their country to promote issues our Government thinks important. Why don't we use their own money and provide them the techni-

President's Corner continued on back

President's Corner, continued

cal assistance that we deem is needed. The leader, of one African country our Government gave aid money to, was later determined by the news media to have purchased very expensive homes in several European cities, probably using aid money.

I do not think our country should give cash money to any foreign country. We should offer aid in the form of products manufactured in the USA. If technical assistants is needed it should be provided by US trained citizens, either in their country or our's. Defense secretary Gates recently cited similar instances involving NATO where the USA was paying the bulk of the cost and our "Allies" provided only lip service and little or no manpower or money to support some NATO missions. The USA is reported to be spending two million dollars a day to fight wars in the Arab world and they want to cut Federal employee numbers and benefits to help pay these costs—is it fair?

—BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership News for June

The Federation Convention was held in Spokane last month, which I attended. I attended a Topics Forum put on by Dave Seesholtz and Paul Shell. This pertained to all reports from National, which is now paperless. So we learned a lot of how to access records, forms, etc. I also sat in on a round table discussion on the Alzheimer's Committee.

For our chapter #1006 our reports are up to date and we are holding our own. However, our decrease in membership is largely due to deaths.

At the present time our membership is 309 voting members, 2 National Life Members and 22 National Only Members. These last two categories are non-voting members.

Welcome to our new members: Monte Gluck of Sequim and Ronald Hanson of Port Townsend.

I have sent past dues notices to: Betty Klingbeil, Mary Kubas-Meyer, Rogelio Monsanto and Hazel Roberts.

I have name tags ready for pick up for Bob Ackerman, Roger Fight and Bill Sery. If you are interested in having a NARFE Chapter #1006 name tag, let me know. The price is \$8.00

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

May Meeting Recap

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by President Bud Shaw, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Thirty-one members attended the meeting including Bill Powers, District IV Vice President. The program consisted of a presentation by Judith Morris who has been Congressman Norm Dicks' local representative for the past four years. His Bremerton office has two employees and there are five people plus an intern in the Tacoma office. The Washington, DC, office has nine employees. She gave a brief overview of current Congressional actions involving the 2011 Budget problems. She wanted the members to know of Norm's interest and a high level of involvement in veteran issues, innovation and technology, the National Parks and Forests, and cleaning up the environment. He is also very concerned about Defense, Medicare/Medicaid, and Social Security as well as affordable health care. She stressed that he is adamant about helping people who need it the most. She doesn't see any positive action coming on WEP/GPO. Judith said members should use email and call local offices instead of sending "hard copy" to anyone in Congress. She enjoys "casework" and resolving problems between Federal workers/retirees and Federal agencies. She promised to provide a website to NARFE which provides information on the Congressional retirement system.

Thirty-six dollars was collected for Alzheimer's.

Sequim's Police Chief will be the speaker for the June 28th luncheon meeting at the Paradise. An invitation was extended to all members to attend the Executive Board meetings. (July Board meeting will be on July 11 at 12:30 in the Sequim Library)

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, SECRETARY

Legislative Report

Robby Stern, President of The Retiree Advocate in Seattle was the keynote speaker at the Washington State NARFE Convention. His theme to the delegates and members regarded the assault on our earned benefits was, "IF NOT NOW, WHEN?" NARFE members, federal workers and retirees, our jobs, wages, retirement and medical benefits are being attacked everyday with legislation being introduced in Congress. These attacks unfairly target our earned benefits and our very existence. We have become the scapegoats and "their" solution for the budget and deficit problems is to target us. We never created these problems and we cannot sit idly by in the face of these challenges to our existence. We must fight back and it must be NOW! The latest Web message from NARFE urged us to CALL CONGRESS and the President. I hope everyone who got that email contacted Congress and the President and demanded that we be treated fairly and that the proposed legislation unfairly singles out government workers and retirees. This Day of Action was not just for May 24th. If you did not contact Washington on the 24th, do it today. This effort was not just for the Chapter President or the Executive Board to fight back, but for everyone to make his or her voice heard. This is a call to everyone, NARFE members, active and retired federal employees and our families. If we do not fight back NOW, we will not have an opportunity to defend our earned benefits when they have been significantly cut or eliminated. Mr. Stern stated a cap on any tax is generally a favor to the very rich. He cited the cap on Social Security tax that is currently a little over \$100,000 dollars of individual income. For most working class Americans you must pay on it all year long, never reaching the cap. The very wealthy reach the cap the first month and never pay anymore the rest of the year. Is this fair? Mr. Stern stated removing the cap would resolve the Social Security and health care fund cash shortfall. IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

If you have an email address and are not on the NARFE Legislative Hotline listing you should contact www.NARFE.ORG and join.

—MIKE TEEFY, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER