

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • August 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: 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)

August Chapter Program

Tuesday, August 23, 2011, 11:30 A.M.
Paradise Restaurant
703 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA

The speaker for the August meeting will be Bill Littlejohn of Fifth Avenue Assisted Living.

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

For Our Own Good

Did you have a problem contacting your Congressional persons or the President during the call in day? Well, welcome to the crowd. I was successful with my E-mails. I have received responses from 2 out of the 3 Congressional persons. I am still waiting for the President's response. I am sure the majority of you saw the TV ad asking "What were you thinking when you proposed cutting Medicare and Medicaid funds". Followed by a request for the public to call Washington and ask for an answer, this could have been the reason you could not get through with your calls.

We May Have Dodged a Bullet When the Debt Ceiling Was Passed

President Barack Obama has signed the debt deal, raising the nation's borrowing limit and cutting spending. But who might feel the pinch from those cuts? Starting in 2012, the deal cuts \$25 billion from discretionary spending, the government's day to day operating budget. The cuts grow larger until 2021, reducing the deficit by \$917 billion. Federal workers are likely to feel the biggest impact. They are already operating under a two-year pay freeze, and some anticipate layoffs.

Harry Reid, D-Nev., deserves the lion's share of credit for getting federal employee pay and benefits removed from the final agreement. The proposal he unveiled July 25 did not touch pay and benefits, and provided the framework for the final deal.

Reps. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., also pushed to avoid pay and benefit cuts for federal employees. "These men and women have clearly sacrificed to help put the nation on sounder fiscal footing," Hoyer said. "It is essential that they not be singled out to make additional sacrifices that, on top of the two-year pay freeze, would impose greater financial challenges on them." Federal employees did not cause the current economic crisis and it can't be fixed by targeting their pay and benefits. Other lawmakers disagree, and say federal employees' compensation is too generous and should be scaled back.

NARFE fears that with tax increases and Medicare and Medicaid being such hot political topics, the super committee will see federal employee pay and benefits as an easier target for cuts. NARFE plans to use its grass-roots "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign to lobby the "skilled" super committee and ensure feds don't bear a disproportionate share of the budget-balancing burden. Government services will likely be scaled back.

However there is no time for us to relax. The bill that raised the Debt Ceiling contained a clause requiring a "skilled" group of 12 to be established to come up with \$2.5 trillion in additional US government spending cuts. The first cuts are targeted for Federal Agencies and Federal programs. This will be followed by cuts in Funds to State and Local governments. If the "skilled" group cannot come up with the required cost

President's Corner continued on back

President's Corner, continued

cuts there will be an automatic 10% across the board cut in all Federal and Local funded programs. So you see we are in the bulls eye. Therefore let the President and Congressional persons know that you are not a happy camper if your earned benefits are to be further tampered with.

Where Did All the Common Sense Go in Washington Politics?

Do you realize that our good politicians in Washington are sending aid to Israel, who has universal health care free for all of it's citizens, while they want to increase our FEHBP costs to help pay for their free health costs? That sounds like it is not quite fair to me. Recent newspaper articles in one Washington paper advises that 81(the most ever) Congressional Members has accepted gratitude trips for their selves and their spouse from an Israeli lobby group. Their trips will be paid for including all travel, meals, lodging and entertainment costs. The majority of those accepting the free trip are first time elected officials. As a retired government employee what would have happened to you if you had of accepted such a trip? Is it any wonder government employees get such recent bad press?

This same "intellectual" group in Washington recently went home on vacation and did not pass a bill to fund the Federal Aviation Administration Agency. The two sides could not agree on funding \$16 million in local air service subsidies. There actions left an estimated 75,000 persons (government and civilians) unemployed. When our brilliant politicians did this they caused the government to lose \$30 million a day in uncollected airline ticket taxes. Now that type of government thinking may be a part of the reason why our Government Budget is so far into the red ink.

NARFE PAC Funds

We are continuing to receive money for the NARFE PAC funds. An additional \$45 has been received and forwarded to Washington Please continue supporting this project. There is a need to be able to support those politicians that support NARFE.

—BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Membership News for August

No earth shattering news from Membership this month.

Best news is that Robert Bougie reinstated his membership, for which we're thankful; but Jerry Starrett has been dropped for non payment of dues - so we're even in that respect.

I have mailed 5 past due statements to: Claire Burham, Alice Cherny, Raymond Douglass, David Owen, Kevin Ryan and Wayne Waag. Your dues were due July 1, 2011.

Those of you that have National Life Memberships - you will be billed annually for our Chapter dues - that amount is \$7.00.

For your information on the dues structure - here's that information: If your interested in Life Memberships, the application is in the NARFE magazine; One year is \$47.00, two years \$86.00 and three years is \$123.00. This price includes the chapter dues. Members who

are on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction on National Dues. Your annual dues will be \$34.00 plus our chapter dues of \$7.00

My next Membership news will be in October. I'll be in Nashville at the FAA-FSR reunion next month.

Name tags for Roger Fight and Tren Williamson are ready for pick up at the meeting.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Meet Our Chapter Treasurer

I was raised in southwest Missouri. In order to make a living and pay for my education I was in private practice as an accountant in Joplin, Missouri, providing small business accounting and tax service. At the start of my senior year in college I was notified I was going to be drafted. I fool the draft board and enlisted. After my "tour" in the army I returned to college and my private practice. Completing my education with a BA/BS in accounting and taxation I sat for the Treasury Exam for a potential position as a law enforcement agent with one of the Treasury departments. I scored high enough on the test to be recruited by the Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service.

I accepted an offer from the Internal Revenue Service and was assigned to the Intelligence Division as a Special Agent (Criminal Investigator). I was in the process of transferring to the ATF, which was a division of IRS at the time, when a serious physical injury ensure my continuing service with the Intelligence Division (later known as Criminal Investigation).

I obtained the necessary hours for an additional Degree in the Administration of Justice and have graduate hours in computer programming. I am a Certified Fraud Examiner and a member in good standing of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

As a Special Agent I conducted multi-year financial investigation to determine if there were violations of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code, as well as other various criminal statutes contained in Title 18 and Title 31. Subjects were individual(s) involve in other illegal activities such as organized crime, illegal narcotics trafficking, embezzlement, organized prostitution or the regular business person who simple attempted to illegally evade his/her tax responsibilities'. Over the course of my career I served in St. Louis, MO; Anchorage, AK; Juneau, AK; Kansas City, MO and Washington, DC. I also served as a Firearms Instructor/Trainer and as an Instructor in Financial Investigations at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia. I served numerous details to the Secret Service to aid in dignitary protection which added interest to my career. I ended my career at Kansas City, MO as a Supervisory Special Agent responsible for investigations in the Western Judicial District of Missouri and the Judicial District of Kansas.

Judy and I had purchased property in the Sequim area in about 1992 and established our residency here in 1997. We built our home here in 2000 after traveling the country from Florida to Alaska in our motorhome for several years.

—ROBERT G JEWELL,

SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT (RET)

US TREASURY, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, IRS,
CHAPTER TREASURER

July Meeting Recap

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by President Bud Shaw, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Eigh-teen members attended.

SPEAKER: NARFE Chapter 1006 member Mark Richards lived and worked for many years in Alaska. He shared a slide presentation on his years in the United States Coast Guard including a year on Guard Island, near Ketchikan. He first arrived on the Island three days after the 1964 earthquake. Those 20 foot tides made life on the little island very interesting. This service led to a career as a weatherman in Alaska.

NATIONAL CALL CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT OBAMA DAY: There was much discussion about the current Congressional budget negotiations. Bud encouraged everyone to call our lawmakers on Wednesday, July 27 (or ANYTIME) to complain about the current crisis. The battle lines are still being drawn and employee and retirement benefits are being threatened more than in generations. Toll free number for the White House is 1-888-225-8418. The toll free number for the Capitol switchboard is 1-866-220-0044. You will need to ask for your legislators by

name or provide your ZIP Code. It has been reported that those phone lines are very busy, often preventing a connection, but KEEP TRYING! We have already sacrificed pay and benefits and should not receive additional cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through many years of service.

DISTRICT IV VP BILL POWERS reports in The Federation Reporter: (1) Plans to film a DVD presentation on NARFE's F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events." Chapter 1006 Service Officer Ralph Angulo will be the presenter. (2) Bill is developing a list of members who are interested in meeting with Congressman Norm Dicks during the August recess. There might be a last minute notice, but tentatively the location has been set for the Bremerton Westside Improvement Club. If interested in attending, call Bill or President Bud Shaw for details.

AUGUST 23RD MEETING SPEAKER: Bill Littlejohn, owner of a large part of the retirement facilities and ambulance services in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY