

NARFE

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



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Bud Shaw

email: uncbud@q.com

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: LaVeta Edmonson

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)

September Chapter Program

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 11:30 A.M.

Paradise Restaurant

703 North Sequim Avenue

Sequim, WA

The speaker for the September meeting will be Bill Maule Retired Diplomatic Officer. Bill will discuss his various assignments around the world including a stint in Iraq where his son was born. He ended his career as the Consul General in Montreal.

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

Here is Where the Money Goes

A company that served as a showcase for the administration's effort to create jobs in clean technology shut down the last of August, leaving 1,100 people out of work and taxpayers obligated for \$535 million in federal loans. One would think that someone with a little common sense in the administration would have checked the cash flow of this company and seen that they should not have RECENTLY received more government bailout funds.

Although the announcement came as a surprise, government auditors had questioned the wisdom of the administration's loan guarantees to the company. Seems a little like leaving the chicken house door open and wondering how the fox got in.

More Need for our Calling

The recent political action creates a bipartisan Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction composed of 12 lawmakers to recommend \$1.5 trillion in additional deficit reduction that Congress would have to consider later this year. The Committee will be empowered to consider all parts of the Federal budget that would address the deficit, including raising revenues and closing tax loopholes for wealthy Americans and large corporations.

If Congress does not enact at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction legislation from the joint committee, the measure requires up to \$1.2 trillion in automatic spending reductions, including cuts to defense and some mandatory spending starting in 2013. Although federal retiree benefits, Social Security and Medicaid are protected from these automatic cuts.

This is where we come in Senator Murray from our state, is a co-chairperson on this committee and we should be reminding her that the current protection of our earned benefits that exists should remain in effect, we have given enough. Federal employees have already contributed to the debt reduction. Federal employees cannot get raises for two years as it stands now. They are worse off than private-sector employees regarding benefit packages. According to a Social Security Administration study that found federal employ-

President's Corner continued on back

President's Corner, continued

ees' retirement plans lag behind some private-sector employees' plans. Just look at the current Port Angeles Hospital Employees benefit package that provides free health care for the employee as one example.

The congressional "super committee" that is scouring the government for spending cuts should look first to the contractors and the millions of dollars that cannot be accounted for in Iraq before going after federal employees. They should also consider capping contractor pay at \$200,000 a year, like federal employees pay is capped. A company's top executives now can charge the government as much as \$700,000 a year.

The 12-member committee was created as part of the law that raised the nation's debt ceiling and created a framework for reducing federal spending.

The federal workforce had no part in creating the budget problems that Congress is trying to address, and undermining their livelihoods should play no part in resolving these problems.

Where is the common sense that should have prevented the U.S. Postal Service from paying some employees to do nothing, while on standby time. The Post Office paid almost 1.25 million hours in fiscal 2009, for "stand-by time" at a cost of \$30.8 million. The cost for "stand-by-time", that means do no work time, was still an estimated \$43 Million for the first six months of this year. The Post Office thinks they are doing great by getting this reduction. Is it little wonder why the public has such bad opinions of government workers when things like this are permitted to exist?

Where is Common Sense Taught?

I do not believe any of our colleges or universities have any courses on common sense. We recently had an event at our place that showed the person involved had little common sense. This person threw a fast food bag with a lot of trash in it out into our driveway which spread out over the ground. The bag contained not only the fast food rubbish but also the persons pay stub from a local store with name, social security number and a charge slip showing the person's charge card number. We googled the person's name and determined this person is a college student currently on the Dean's honor roll, which should indicate this person has brains. But the actions indicate this person has a lot of book learning but little common sense. We spoke with the store manager where this person works and they said the person is a good employee and he would have a talk with the person. This person should make a good politician someday; most of our politicians have a lot of "book" learning but shallow common sense.

—BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

August Meeting Recap

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

SPEAKER: Bill Littlejohn, owner, and Michelle Payton, Administrator of the Lodge at Sherwood Village, spoke to the group. Sherwood Village was started by Mr. Littlejohn's father on the Thompson farm, which he purchased in 1971. Bill took over the business 20 years ago. Michelle manages the Lodge and the Fifth Avenue Retirement Center. The Lodge at Sherwood Village offers a variety of amenities and services. Three meals a day, bright spacious apartments, weekly housekeeping, and a full calendar of activities which help enhance active lifestyles. Monthly rates in the Lodge range from \$2275 for a studio up to \$3950 for a deluxe two bedroom apartment. Two and three bedroom Cottages are also available, which include large single garages, enclosed patios, and radiant floor heat. Cottage monthly rates are \$3800 for a two bedroom and \$4285 for three bedrooms. Bed and breakfast apartments are available for your overnight guests. Lodging, including full breakfast for two, is \$125 per night.

The Fifth Avenue facility includes 71 beautiful apartments on two floors, ranging from studios to deluxe 2 bedroom/2 bath deluxe units. They are all unfurnished with kitchens and rent on a month to month basis. Tours of the facilities are available.

PRESIDENT SHAW: Every member should call their congressional representatives immediately and frequently to urge them to protect our earned benefits. Senator Patty Murray is a member of the "supercommittee". Especially she needs to hear from every federal retiree and active worker whom she represents. We didn't cause the budget crisis and should not be unfairly singled out to bear the burden of fixing it. She has a large vote in protecting our insurance premiums, determining reductions in force, preventing salary cuts, protecting military retirements, etc. It will take a lot of effort on our part to keep what we have.

NEW ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR: LaVeta Edmonson is replacing Mary Balian as the Chapter Chair.

SERVICE OFFICER ANGULO: For most reliable up to date information, members should read the NARFE magazine and website rather than relying on television and newspaper articles. A new DVD on Form 100 featuring Mr. Angulo will be available soon.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 27th, 11:30 a.m., Paradise Restaurant, Sequim. Speaker-- Bill Maule, retired Diplomatic Officer, Department of State.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY